Hafa Adai!
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NEWSPAPER

BUDDING DANCERS
From left, Ashlynn Han, Mikaehla Mendoza, Auriela Feger, Angeline Quan, and Nyla Deleon Guerrero, all of Glushko Academy, take part as the Pink Dancers in *Paquita Grand Pas* during Sunday night's performance at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
JAYSON CAMACHO
See story on Page 7

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should the government issue homestead permits on Pagan?
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INSIDE

FOCUS

She lost her right hand to a manic killing spree. He wielded the machete that took both. ➤ PAGE 18

Independent bid for Babauta, Torres

» GOP: It is up to voters to choose which team will move CNMI forward

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI now heads for at least a four-way gubernatorial race, after the fourth tandem of former governor Juan Nekai Babauta and former senator Juan Sablan Torres declared yesterday their candidacy for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively. The two longtime Republicans are running as independents, weeks after the GOP thumbed down their request for a primary race.

See BABAUTA on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Former governor Juan N. Babauta, second from left, and former senator Juan S. Torres, second from right, declare their independent candidacies for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, in Gualo Rai yesterday. Also in photo are Babauta's wife Charlene, left, and Torres' aunt, right.

Inos nixes bill that could lead to 'payless Fridays'

» 'Judgment payments without appropriation unconstitutional, against public policy'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos vetoed yesterday a bill that would allow the government to satisfy judgments—totaling more than $27 million—without an appropriation, saying it is "unconstitution-

See PAYLESS on Page 4

Cellphone use causes over 1 in 4 car accidents

By GABRIELLE KRATSAS
USA TODAY

Drivers are constantly reminded not to use their phones while behind the wheel, but a new study reminds us just how dangerous it is.

The National Safety Council's annual injury and fatality report, "Injury Facts," found that the use of cellphones causes 26 percent of the nation's car accidents, a modest increase from the previous year. The 2014 edition of the report compares data from 2013 and earlier.

Only 5 percent of cellphone-related crashes occur because the driver is tex-

See CELLPHONE on Page 4

'Over 7K calls each month; cost to CUC is $15K monthly' PAGE 3
Opening statements today in Crisostomo's trial. PAGE 5

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Local

$112K Tinian appropriations and Saipan zoning law change OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, when he was acting governor on Thursday, signed into local law a bill appropriating $112,000 in poker license fees for patients' subsistence allowance, medical referral, scholarship and other activities. That was barely a day after the four-member Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed the amended local bill.

Hofschneider signed Rep. Trenton Conner's (Ind-Tinian) House Local Bill 18-48, Draft 1 into Tinian Local Law 18-7.

Under the new local law, $45,000 in poker license fees collected on Tinian will go toward the monthly subsistence allowance of patients on dialysis, those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder and dermatomyositis, as well as post-cerebral vascular accident patients.

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship gets $35,000, while the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation gets $15,000. Tinian Little League gets $10,000, while $5,000 goes to expenses related to the Attorney General's Cup. The remaining $2,000 goes to the Tinian Health Center's medical referral program.

Saipan zoning law amendment

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, signed into local law on Friday a bill amending the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to rezone from "village commercial" to "tourist

See ZONING on Page 4

Confessed meth user gets 8-mo. prison term for 'ice' distribution conspiracy

The federal court on Friday slapped an eight-month prison term against Vicente Aldan Sablan, a confessed drug user who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona gave Sablan credit for 28 days of time served. Upon release from prison, Sablan will be placed on three years of supervised release, during which he will be required, among other conditions, to perform 100 hours of community service and participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

Sablan was ordered to self-surrender to the U.S. Marshal on April 25, 2014, to start serving his sentence.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton and the U.S. Probation Office recommended a sentence of eight months imprisonment, the low end of the sentencing guideline range.

Defense attorney Mark Scoggins recommended a sentence of home detention or that Sablan participate in the Lighthouse Recovery Center in Guam.

Sablan apologized to the court and asked for a sentence of home confinement.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola told the court on Thursday about Sablan's alleged "ice" use in violation of the special condition of his bail.

Arriola disclosed that Sablan failed to report for a counseling session on March 25, 2014. The next day, Sablan submitted to a random drug test and tested presumptive positive for "ice" use, Arriola said.

When confronted with the test result, Sablan reportedly denied using the drug.

The specimen was packaged and sent to the laboratory for further analysis.

On March 27, 2014, the probation officer said, Sablan admitted to the treatment vendor that he had used meth on March 25.

In October 2013, Sablan's release conditions were modified to include substance abuse treatment as a result of his admission to drug use.

An indictment charged Sablan and former Department of Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig with conspiracy to distribute meth and distribution of meth.

A federal jury aquitted Falig during a re-trial last February.

Sablan pleaded guilty as part of a deal with the U.S. government.

During Falig's retrial in February, Sablan testified that he served as a drug courier for Falig in purchasing $700 worth of "ice" from a supplier in Lower Navy Hill on March 22, 2011. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge terminates Fang's motion to review detention order

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed the court's clerk on Friday to terminate the motion for review of detention order filed by Xing Bo Fang, the man tagged by authorities as the alleged leader of a group of methamphetamine suppliers on Saipan.

Manglona issued the order after Fang, through counsel David Banes, withdrew his request to review the pretrial detention order.

Fang withdrew his motion because he already pleaded guilty on Thursday.

In that motion, Banes had asked the court to review the detention order issued by Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, saying it is defective on its face. Banes said Kennedy's order failed to apply the standard of review as it does not contain any specific fact-finding or explanatory reasoning.

In her order, Kennedy noted, among other things, that the weight of the evidence against Fang, including audio and video recordings of events, gave clear and convincing evidence that no condition of release will reasonably assure the community's safety.

Before filing the motion, Fang, through counsel Banes, also brought the detention issue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He later withdrew the appeal.

Last Tuesday, April 1, the Ninth Circuit granted Fang's motion for voluntary dismissal of the appeal.

Fang, 36, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a $10 million fine, and a $100 special assessment fee.

Fang will be sentenced on July 11, 2014, at 9am.

According to the plea agreement, Fang sold about 98.7 grams of 98.0 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to a confidential source of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration on Dec. 27, 2013, at the instruction of Fang's co-defendant, Yu Hua Wang. Fang himself personally handled the drug and handed it over to the DEA confidential source.

While the confidential source did not give any money to Fang or Wang on that day, the confidential source later gave Wang $8,500 in U.S. government "buy money," according to assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton.

Before that, on Nov. 18, 2013, Fang sold 14.6 grams of 98.5 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to the same DEA confidential source for $2,700, Naughton said.

Fang and Wang were among seven persons arrested in February by joint local and federal law enforcements for alleged distribution of "ice." Wang is being tagged as the alleged second-in-command of an organization of drug suppliers on Saipan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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‘Over 7K calls each month; cost to CUC is $15K monthly’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The newly revived Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has tasked the agency’s management to further study and assess the effectiveness of its existing call center service.

The board requested this after finding out that CUC spends $15,000 a month to pay for this service, which is being handled by a private telecommunication firm for CUC.

“We’re going to look at all aspects of the operation, including the people we have in all our divisions. The board for now specifically tasked our CFO [Charles Warren] to further study the call center service we have. We would like to see if we can do it through in-house instead of paying $15,000 monthly,” board chair David J. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

During last week’s meeting, CFO Charles Warren and executive director Alan Fletcher took turns responding to board members’ questions about the call center service program, which has been ongoing for more than a year now.

Warren disclosed that CUC’s call center service—performed by IT&E personnel—receive over 7,000 calls from customers each month. About 60 percent of the calls come in during business hours while 40 percent are received at night.

It will be recalled that CUC inked a two-year agreement early last year with IT&E to improve the agency’s call center service at a cost of $180,000 per year. The goal then was to improve customer service and access to CUC departments, through a 24/7 call center service. Since then, all calls made to CUC are answered by a live operator and are either handled directly or connected to appropriate CUC employees.

» Call center service contract to be revisited

According to Warren, among the key advantages of the call center is that CUC customers can reach any department by dialing a single, easy to remember number, 664-4CUC. Previously, he said, over two dozen numbers were used to reach various departments.

Warren said the program has been successful since the start. He said the outsourced service has about seven to eight people working 24 hours to accommodate CUC’s customer calls.

The board, however, balked at the $15,000 CUC spends each month for the service and suggested that the cost may be lowered if CUC uses its own personnel.

In presenting his calculation, board chair David Sablan said the 7,000 calls being received every month by about eight personnel represents about 39 calls every hour. He said there are approximately nine calls being handled per operator.

“I think you need to study that and see the cost if we will utilize our in-house staff,” Sablan told Warren.

Warren believes that the $15,000 monthly cost is reasonable for all eight people working 24 hours for CUC.

“This call center replaced the eight staff we have internally and if we will use them, total compensation is higher than $15,000 monthly and you need 24/7 service,” explained Warren.

He added that 40 percent of the calls are for immediate troubleshoots and field services. The rest are from customers who call during daytime to ask about their accounts, payments, and disconnections.

“If the calls are related to customer account, I don’t think they will make calls at night time and ask how much they owe CUC. Customer issues normally come in during working hours,” said Sablan, adding that since operators also connect calls for troubleshooting, the need to have all eight personnel assigned 24/7 at a call center service must be reviewed.

Fletcher offers snapshots of key CUC progress in 4 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite the many challenges it faces, the islands’ utilities corporation has made a significant progress in the last four years, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher.

Speaking to the new board of directors on Thursday, Fletcher presented key accomplishments among the three divisions of CUC—power, water, and wastewater—from fiscal years 2010 through 2013.

Fletcher

For the power division, Fletcher disclosed that from a power generation of just 25 megawatts in 2009, CUC has achieved over 60MW power generation capacity at present. It also improved engine efficiency from 12 kWh gallon fuel rating to over 15 kWh per gallon.

From the near collapsed situation of its power plants in 2008, Fletcher said that they managed to extend the life of Power Plant 1—the main source of electricity of its customers on Saipan—by another 10 years.

He also reported the in-house installation of new radiators, the upgraded Rota power plant that saves $50,000 per week in power purchases, as well as the completion of the “Renewable Integration Study,” which studied how CUC can integrate renewable energy into its grid.

According to Fletcher, CUC was also able to procure an Integrated Resource Plan for the CNMI to look at new energy sources, procure geothermal feasibility study, and meet operational goals despite delays in government collections.

Fletcher said the agency has also been effectively managing the projects mandated by federal stipulated orders in the last four years.

For the water division, he reported that the agency has achieved 95 percent of 24-hour water service while 98 percent are now covered by its metering project.

He also cited the continuing workforce development training and the certification of 30 employees. Since 2010, the agency also reduced the number of its boil-order notice to just one and met operational goals despite delayed collections, he said.

In the wastewater division, Fletcher reported that the agency reduced by 15 percent the electrical costs in wastewater treatment plants and rehabilitated two secondary wastewater treatment plants.

$67M federal monies

In other areas of operation, CUC was able to obtain $67 million in federal grants in which about $40 million worth of projects have been completed in the last four years.

Fetcher also cited the good mark on CUC’s audit reports, which have been obtaining unqualified opinions since fiscal year 2010.

“We also renegotiated merchant account fees, saving CUC about $300,000 each year and arranged grants to pay off the $1.9 million Agingan Wastewater outfall construction loan,” he said.

CUC also obtained a $1 million grant to replace 20-year-old customer information and billing system and was able to procure 950 state-of-the-art prepaid electric meters through federal grants.

Fletcher cited that in the early termination of the Pacific Marine Industrial Inc. contract for Power Plant 4 in 2012, CUC expects to save over $5 million. CUC also cited the success of its call center service, which has been in place since last year.

Kilili to Jewell: Speed up co-management plan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) pressed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "speed up" the co-management agreement governing federal and CNMI submerged lands in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, three months after President Barack Obama signed a proclamation temporarily withholding the transfer to the CNMI of submerged lands around five islands that are either part of a national marine monument or under lease to the U.S. military.

Obama exempted from the transfer to the CNMI the control of submerged lands around Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, and Asuncion, which are part of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, as well as Tinian and Farallon de Medinilla that are under lease to the U.S. military.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Legislature asked for a firm 180-day timeline to come up with a co-management plan, among other things, but this was not considered.

Sablan got to raise the co-management issue during the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee's hearing on the U.S. Department of the Interior's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal.

The delegate said after signing over the oil, gas, and mineral rights around the CNMI to the Commonwealth government last month, the next step for the Interior is to complete a co-management agreement with the Commonwealth for the submerged lands in the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

Sablan asked for a timeframe for completion.

The Interior secretary responded that she has already directed Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to complete an agreement.

Jewell also testified on the president's budget proposal to increase assistance to territories by $3 million and provide an additional $1.8 million to improve safety conditions in insular schools. Sablan said he supports both changes. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CELLPHONE

From Page 1

ting. The majority of the accidents involve drivers distracted while talking on handheld or hands-free cellphones.

The NSC report, combined with Texas A&M research institute's "Voice-to-Text Driver Distraction Study," warns drivers that talking can be more dangerous than texting while operating a vehicle, and the use of talk-to-text applications is not a solution.

For most phone-related tasks, Texas A&M's survey said manual texting took slightly less time than the voice-to-text method. Regardless, driver performance was almost equally affected during both tasks.

In early 2013, the nation's four biggest cellphone companies launched their first joint advertising campaign against texting while driving. Verizon Wireless, Sprint and T-Mobile united behind AT&T's "It Can Wait" advertising campaign, warning their customers against the misuse of their own devices.

However, hands-free cellphone use has become a driving force in cellphone-related distractions of those behind the wheel. Studies published as early as 2009, such as a report in the Journal of Safety Research, have said that driving performance while using a hands-free phone was rarely found to be better than using handheld devices.

In the full NSC report, the organization lists and rates different tasks in relation to the effect they have on a driver's mental workload, using data collected from a cognitive study.

ZONING

From Page 2

resort" 12 lots adjacent to a new hotel that Saipan Surfrider LLC will develop at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and the former Silver Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-43 is now Saipan Local Law 18-15.

Saipan Surfrider LLC plans to develop a 60-room Surfrider Resort Spa and Beach in the area.

Veto

On the same day, the governor also vetoed Conner's House Local Bill 18-42, which establishes a Tinian medical assistance review board for screening and verification of medically assisted patients.

Inos said he voted the bill because it conflicts with Commonwealth law.

"While I recognize the need to screen medical patients at Tinian Health Center for financial assistance, these procedures must be undertaken pursuant to the direction and oversight of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.," the governor said in his veto message.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

al," "contrary to public policy," and fails to define "available funds" that could spur litigations. The governor warned that the bill, if enacted, could lead to payless Fridays and even a complete government shutdown.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said last night he was "surprised" by the governor's veto of his bill, but he said he will consider his options after he has seen the full veto message.

While the Planning and Budgeting Act allows the governor to waive the requirement of a legislative appropriation, Tebuteb said the governor does not appear to be willing to make that waiver.

"The governor has never exercised that waiver provision. The bill makes the governor and the government responsible for government obligations," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, in vetoing Tebuteb's House Bill 18-143, House Draft 2, said he wholeheartedly agrees that the government must make good on its obligations but the bill is "not a legally viable solution." He cited three legal issues that the bill raises.

First, the bill violates the doctrine of separation of powers by permitting the Legislature to delegate—or even abdicate—its power of the purse. Section 5 of Article 2 and Article 10 of the NMI Constitution "imbue the Commonwealth Legislature with exclusive control over the direct or indirect expenditure of public funds."

Second, the bill is contrary to public policy in that it authorizes judgment creditors to execute on government property—"property that is held by the government for the people," the governor said.

Third, the bill does not define "available funds." The governor said the omission of this definition will spur litigation over the meaning of the term and public resources will be wasted on these litigation proceedings.

The governor said there is good reason for treating judgments against the government as different from judgments against private entities.

"Signing this bill into law would be a disservice to the people overall and would unconstitutionally permit the Legislature to abdicate its power of the purse. The current law allows the government to meet its obligations, and to do so the Legislature must exercise its power over the purse and appropriate monies to satisfy these outstanding judgments. Obligations must be prioritized and addressed by way of appropriation," the governor said in his three-page veto message to legislative leaders.

The bill allows payment of judgments "from any available funds with or without appropriation" from the Legislature.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), the only one who voted "no" to the bill in the House, earlier said he is concerned that the measure gives a "blank check" by allowing the court to enforce judgments without legislative appropriation so long as it does not exceed 15 percent of funds appropriated to the Executive Branch for a respective fiscal year.

If applied liberally, the bill "can hurt or jeopardize the delivery of essential public services," he had said.

While the governor vetoed Tebuteb's bill, Senate vice president Victor Hocog's (R-Rota) bill allowing the governor to negotiate a settlement and resolution of judgments against the CNMI government, including offsets and credits on any tax obligation by the claimants or members of their immediate family, became law. Hocog's Senate Bill 18-26 became Public Law 18-37 on Feb. 23, after the 40-day period lapsed without the governor's action.

All these come at a time when lawmakers have been pushing for a fair distribution or payment of land compensations when funding becomes available, to avoid previous practices of paying only a few families while over 300 other landowners have yet to receive a penny in exchange for their private property used by the government.

The Office of the Attorney General told the Legislature last year that the government's outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements is now more than $27 million, excluding accruing interests.

Under current law, the government is restricted from making settlement of claims and payment of judgments because a legislative appropriation is necessary for such payments.

Although the law allows the governor to waive the requirement of a legislative appropriation, the governor "does not appear to be willing to make such a waiver," Tebuteb said.

In his bill, he said "judgments sit for years without the governor making a waiver or requesting an appropriation. Since the government is shielded from the judicial enforcement of judgments, the government has become irresponsible and neglectful in addressing its obligations."

BABAUTA

From Page 1

Babauta said after the November elections, he will go back to the Republican Party that he once led.

In the presence of their families and supporters, Babauta and Torres officially declared their candidacy in their Gualo Rai headquarters at noon yesterday.

Juan "Liling" Reyes is the chairman of the Committee to Elect Babauta and Torres.

Babauta said it was an "unfortunate decision" on the part of the Republican Party to decide not to hold a primary race, knowing that he and Torres have been lifelong Republicans and that the public was not given an opportunity to make the choice of who they want to represent them.

"The erosion of public confidence I think is quite obvious that is going on. [Pieces of] legislation are being passed in the middle of the night. No committee report. No public hearings are held. They are being shoved down the throats of the people. That is just uncalled for," Babauta said.

He was referring to the recent passing and enactment of a measure legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, along with other bills. Babauta said he does not support legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

Babauta and Torres decided to run as independents after the Republican Party said the GOP had already formally endorsed the candidacy of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) in September. Babauta described it as a "preselection."

Ivan Blanco, chairman of the GOP Central Committee's public relations team, said yesterday that "as we live in a democratic society, any person or persons have their right to put forth their candidacy to the voters to decide upon."

"It is up to the voters to decide which party will lead the CNMI forward into the near future. As GOP, we know we have the capability through hard work to continue the upward economic trend for the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Blanco said Babauta and Torres are registered Republicans "and the GOP would like to reiterate that we welcome them always."

Besides the independent Babauta-Torres ticket and the Republican team of Inos-Torres, two other teams are vying for the gubernatorial seat: Former speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) as independents, and former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward "Tofila" M. Deleon Guerrero and former representative Daniel "Danny" O. Quitugua of the Democratic Party.

With at least four tickets vying for the top posts, the CNMI is headed for a gubernatorial runoff election if no team gets at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast in the general elections.

Reviving Retirement Fund

Torres, also a former representative and former administrator of the NMI Retirement Fund, said if he and Babauta are given the chance, they would revive the now-defunct NMI Retirement Fund.

"I would like to bring back all those government employees into the system," he said. He added that he would like to emulate a Rhode Island pension system that was revived, adding that he is not ashamed to ask for help.

He said the Babauta-Torres team has a "working plan" to restore the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension but it's not going to be an overnight problem-solving.

"The money is there. It's just that we have to apply it where it's mostly needed," he added.

Torres said he is "very enthusiastic" to team up with Babauta in the November race.

He also said it is "unfortunate" that the political party that they were lifetime members of "refused" to accord the people the "opportunity to have a choice."

"I think the people had enough of the problems we are encountering. We hope to give that opportunity to the people and make the choice so we can better our lives. Right now, I think people are crying because they are suffering. CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Cor.] has made these people suffer because of the horrendous rates they are assessing our people," he said.

Babauta, for his part, said private customers are essentially subsidizing CUC because the government has not been paying its utility bills. Babauta said he and Torres will address this "inequity."

The former governor added that the CNMI could easily add $50 million to its annual revenue if only it properly enforces its tax laws.

On foreign workers

Babauta and Torres said they want qualified and longtime foreign workers to remain in the CNMI.

They said a pathway to citizenship is a matter for the federal government to decide, adding that most longtime foreign workers they have talked to care more about their ability to continue to work legally in the CNMI rather than earn citizenship.

"We support legalized status for nonresident workers," Babauta said, adding that if it were for him, a CNMI-specific foreign worker program should continue and allow these workers to be able to easily go in and out of the CNMI.

At their announcement, they also presented a general outline of their priority issues including the economy, jobs, the Retirement Fund, healthcare costs, and the high cost of air transportation including between the CNMI and Guam.

"My running mate and I feel that the people of the CNMI are feeling very depressed at this time. We will work hard to lift the spirits of the people of the CNMI," he said.

Babauta, a former CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. for 12 years, added that he and Torres will complement each other's expertise—his broad public policy background working with the federal government and other local and state governments, while Torres' financial management background. Babauta also served as chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and served as a senator from 1986 to 1990.

"So we complement each other's background. I think that we're going to be a strong team in that respect," he added.

Two ex-convicts arrested for Mobil gas station robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested Friday two ex-convicts who allegedly robbed a Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao last Feb. 8.

Christopher M. Igisomar, 31, and Joseph C. San Nicolas Jr., 25, also known as Jun Dagu, are charged with robbery, theft, conspiracy, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace. They are being held on a $100,000 cash bail each.

Police detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety received a call about a robbery at the Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao last Feb. 8 at 5:07am.

One suspect, who was armed with a machete, was wearing a pair of green Army pants, had a hat, and his face was covered with a red T-shirt. The second suspect, who was armed with a possible piece of hollow block, was wearing a pair of white or tan colored short pants.

Preliminary investigation showed that the first suspect ran behind the cashier's counter, brandished his machete, and demanded money and the cashier's purse. The female cashier opened the cash register and then moved away. The suspect grabbed the money in the till, took the woman's purse, and ran outside.

The cashier said the first suspect has a swastika tattoo on the outside portion of his left wrist and tattoos on his knuckles.

The second suspect on the other hand, entered the gas station and ran to the male gas attendant, who was then sitting inside the station's store. He held the gas attendant in a headlock from behind and held a possible piece of hollow block against the attendant's neck.

The two suspects then ran outside the store and headed north on foot.

Camacho said that police officers were searching the area north of the gas station when a bystander approached them and told them that Igisomar is a former prisoner who has a swastika tattoo on the outer portion of his left hand. Camacho said they later questioned Igisomar and took photos of his tattoos. Igisomar denied involvement in the robbery.

About a month later, on March 19, an anonymous caller reported to DPS that two local men entered the Viva Poker in Chalan Kanoa and overheard them planning to rob the establishment.

Camacho said that when police officers responded to Viva Poker, they met two local men, who identified themselves as Igisomar and San Nicolas. After a police officer questioned them, Igisomar and San Nicolas left the scene.

Camacho said that on March 27, he reviewed the surveillance camera's footage of the gas station robbery and noticed that the second suspect tied something around his left ankle to cover something.

That same day, Camacho said, while he was driving by the William S. Reyes Elementary School, he saw San Nicolas walking on the side of the road. Camacho said he noticed a tattoo on the left inner shin by the ankle of San Nicolas.

Camacho said he asked San Nicolas if they could talk at the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation, but the suspect promised to follow later because he was babysitting at that time.

Later that night, Camacho said, San Nicolas showed up at CBI where he confessed that he and Igisomar robbed the gas station in Chalan Piao. San Nicolas reportedly said it was Igisomar who brought up the idea of robbing the gas station.

After the robbery, Igisomar allegedly gave San Nicolas $70 as his share from the robbery.

Camacho said Igisomar was released from prison on Oct. 13, 2012, after being convicted in connection with a robbery at Leo Poker in Tanapag and theft of a vehicle.

Court records show that on Oct. 14, 2006, Igisomar robbed the Leo Poker Game Room in Tanapag. A surveillance camera led to his identification and subsequent arrest.

In March 2007, then-Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a six-year prison term on Igisomar for burglary. He was released in 2010, police said.

In April 2007, a security guard was injured when a group of men staged an armed robbery at Smile Poker in Chalan Kanoa. Police later arrested four suspects, including San Nicolas.

Opening statements today in Crisostomo's jury trial

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Joseph A. Crisostomo is escorted by a Corrections officer during a break in yesterday's jury selection in Superior Court. Crisostomo is on trial for the kidnapping and killing of bartender Emerita Romero in February 2012.

»8 jurors are impaneled

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho impaneled yesterday eight jurors, including two alternates, who will decide the fate of Joseph A. Crisostomo, a habitual offender who is accused of kidnapping and killing bartender Emerita Romero in February 2012.

The jury is composed of six females and two males.

The prosecution and defense counsel will present their opening statements at 8:30am today, Tuesday.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 5:10pm yesterday, Camacho was still giving the jury instructions.

Interim chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty and assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy are prosecuting the case. Defense attorney Janet H. King is counsel for the 40-year-old Crisostomo.

Camacho's courtroom was jampacked yesterday as 138 out of 156 prospective jurors who were served with summons showed up at the jury selections.

Camacho issued arrest warrants against nine persons who did not show up. He excused the rest.

The prosecution is expected to file a third amended information today that will remove the theft charge.

This developed as the CNMI Supreme Court issued an opinion last Friday in a separate case, ruling that theft is a lesser included offense of robbery.

With the dismissal of theft, Crisostomo's remaining charges are first-degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Romero reportedly got on a car that she mistook for a taxicab near her house in Garapan on Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found her body at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis.

New CUC board chair opposes standby charge proposal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David J. Sablan, chairman of the newly revived Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, is personally opposed to the standby charge being endorsed by the agency for its large customers that mainly rely on their own power generators for their daily operations.

For Sablan, charging individuals that are not part of CUC's customer base simply doesn't make sense.

"CUC is proposing to charge a certain fee for being off the grid and personally, I don't understand that because if someone is off the grid and not using our grid, why should we charge them?" Sablan said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Pending at the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's table is a decision on the proposed $20 per kW monthly charge for large customers, which is projected to bring in $2 million in annual revenues to the financially challenged CUC.

If implemented, those who will be affected by the new charge are members of the Hotel Association of NMI and the Saipan Facilities Management Association, which earlier opposed the recommendation.

According to Sablan, instead of pushing for the new charge, the utilities corporation should instead work harder on getting more customers back into its fold. He said there's no way he can support the recommendation of CUC.

But because the standby charge proposal is already with CPUC's hands, Sablan hinted that the board cannot do something about it for now.

"It's now in the hands of CPUC, but personally I am not in favor of it. I would rather sit down and negotiate with these commercial customers that are off the grid and see what needs to be done to bring them back to CUC," he said.

When asked about the possibility of the CUC board asking management to amend the standby recommendation, Sablan said: "There's a possibility on that. But we need to look at what the procedures are. We have to make sure that if we were to stop that, we're not violating any regulation and policy. And my understanding is: a decision is forthcoming already [from CPUC]."

During the April 2 CPUC meeting, the commission—after hearing concerns of both SFMA and HANMI—ruled to delay action on the standby charge proposal to its next meeting on May 22.

At the time, CPUC also disclosed the creation of an "alternative tariff," which is now being discussed by CUC, Georgetown Consulting, SFMA, HANMI, and CPUC's hearing examiner.

CPUC reported that there are active discussions between parties on "incentive rate options" to encourage self-generating large commercial customers to become full-time CUC customers.

Under the CUC's standby proposal, there are only two ways to prevent large commercial customers from paying the charge: to hook up to CUC or to physically disconnect from the grid completely.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-076
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A LED SIGN TRAILER FOR THE ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP14-BECQ-086

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2014 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OPERATOR TRAINING FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS – CLASS A/B OPERATORS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASATAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 25, 2014 AT www.deq.gov.mp AS WELL AS AT THE BECQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL TO reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 14, 2014.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-075
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF AN OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.
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The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

DESPITE NEW FUNDS FOR PERMANENT CLOSURE OF PUERTO RICO DUMP:

BECQ says closure design, construction may take time

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The permanent closure of the Puerto Rico dump on Saipan is not expected anytime soon, according to Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank M. Rabauliman.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that several steps need to be taken before the project is completely terminated.

The Office of Insular Affairs, through acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Lori Faeth and Director Nik Pula, recently awarded the CNMI over $5.619 million for the Puerto Rico dump closure. This amount is a portion of the $7.492 million Capital Improvement Project monies provided last month to the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Rabauliman disclosed that a request for proposal for the dump closure as well as the necessary contracts have been worked out by the local CIP office. More time, however, is needed to complete the whole process, he said.

"The design work will come from CIP and my understanding was that an RFP has already gone out. To totally close the dump, we need to complete both the design and construction…and it will still take some time," Rabauliman said, admitting that BECQ does not expect the closure project to be done before the end of the year.

The Puerto Rico dump stopped receiving trash in 2003 when the $10-million Marpi landfill opened. The local government then secured U.S. Department of the Interior funding for the dump's final closure. The dump's final closure is expected to greatly reduce its adverse impacts on the surrounding ocean ecosystem.

The Puerto Rico dump has not received additional garbage since 2003 but federal regulations require it to be completely closed.

According to Rabauliman, the local government still plans to close the dump and convert the area into a useful facility such as a public park. He explained that the design work includes capping the dump and installing piping for monitoring purposes.

"The final design will tell us what we can and can't put on the site. For the BECQ, we still see that site as a prime area that can be of great use to the government. But as to what specific infrastructure the administration wants to build in there, we're not privy to that issue [for now]," said Rabauliman.

According to him, "capping is not cheap and it doesn't mean putting just a plastic liner. There are some constructions that need to happen."

The CIP office is the lead agency in the closure project in coordination with the BECQ, Public Works Department, and Historic Preservation Office, among other agencies.

BECQ, he said, provides comments and guidance on the project to ensure all environmental requirements are complied with.

Rabauliman revealed that despite the federal order that ordered the closure in 2010, the project was stalled for years due to "back-and-forth negotiations" between the administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Tinian mayor push for ports master plan

Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz has written to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, applauding the Marine Corps' recent "ad hoc" meetings and raising what he considers the most critical question facing Tinian—the development of long-term transportation logistics for both the civilian and the military community.

"The logistics requirements for operation of the ranges and support requirements for an average of 1,000 personnel on Tinian require the military development of the seaport and airport," said Dela Cruz. "This seaport and airport development provides a unique opportunity to leverage the DOD military improvements into civilian improvements that will benefit the entire CNMI."

Recognizing that the CNMI does not have the funding to support such a study, the mayor recommends Inos to "encourage the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment to provide assistance to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to assure military use of the civilian infrastructure at the seaport and airport is compatible with continued civilian uses."

What Tinian needs, said the mayor, is a "comprehensive Tinian Ports Master Plan, a plan that will ensure that CNMI equities are fully protected with the impending military development."

Dela Cruz raised the issue with Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lori Faeth and OIA Director Nik Pula during their March 28 meeting on Tinian. Both agreed that such a study would provide important planning information for the future.

Fortunately, as the mayor pointed out to Faeth, language exists in both the Covenant and the 1984 lease and leaseback agreements that provides a legal basis for the military to assist CPA in planning for the joint development of facilities.

The mayor concluded his message to the governor by noting what others have recognized. "The existing use agreements for the seaport and airport are out of date, having been negotiated during a time that military use of Tinian was for occasional exercises. Long-term planning, through development of an executable master plan that includes an economic analysis, should be of the highest priority for CPA in regards to the Tinian ports." ***(Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan)***

Junior High Mock Trial to mark 10th year on Saturday

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
Students from Rota's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja prepare for trial at last year's Junior High Mock Trial event.

The Northern Mariana Humanities Council, in collaboration with the Guma' Hustisia, will host the 10th annual Junior High Mock Trial this Saturday. The competition will commence at 9am at the House of Justice and is expected to end around noon.

According to junior high mock trial coordinator Eulalia Villagomez, this year's mock trial event has the largest school participation. Participating schools are Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School, Rota's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, Rota's Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Tinian Junior High School, and Whispering Palms School.

"I think this will be the best one because we have more participants than previous years," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although the schools will be arguing the same case as the recent High School Mock Trial competition, the event is not competitive. However, individual students will be recognized for their outstanding performances after each round.

This year Superior Court judges Joseph Camacho and Teresa Kim-Tenorio and associate justices Perry Inos and John Manglona will be presiding over the junior high trials. Manglona will be delivering the opening remarks.

Villagomez is inviting members of the community to attend the free event because "it is fun to watch, students really get in touch with their roles as lawyers and witnesses."

The event will also mark the Humanities Council's 10th year of hosting the junior high mock trial.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free erosion control training

Join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for a free workshop to learn about how to manage your land to decrease erosion and protect the environment on Saturday, April 26, 9am to 2pm, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Please contact Jihan Buniag at 664-8522 or 989-8442 to register. ***(PR)***

OPA staff on Tinian, Rota for filings

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota today, April 8, 2014, and on Tinian on Thursday, April 10, 2014, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office on April 8 from 10:30am to 4pm. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office on April 10 from 10:30am to 3:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. ***(OPA)***

Nurture Earth

Join the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Hyatt Regency Saipan on Earth Day, April 22. MINA, in partnership with Hyatt, will engage with guests, associates, and the community in a native tree planting event at Laolao Bay from 8am onwards. To become a MINA volunteer email us at minaoutreach@gmail.com or call 233-REEF for more details. ***(PR)***

SVES registration for kindergarten

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year 2014-2015 is scheduled to begin on May 27-30, 2014, for kindergarten only from 9am through 11:30am in the school's main office. Child must be 5 years on or before Sept. 30, 2009, as per BOE policy. For more information, call 664-3981. ***(PR)***

Free business workshop on customer service

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will host a free business workshop on Saipan called "Customer Service for Small Businesses" on April 17, 2014, at the second floor of the Family Building in Garapan, from 10am to 12pm. It will be presented by Small Business Development Center director Perry Inos Jr. Call 664-3018 for pre-registration. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one business day before the workshop. Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability. Online registration is also available at pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. ***(PR)***

USP4GG to host forum on TPS on Wednesday

In an effort to continue the campaign of Temporary Protected Status designation for the Philippines, the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter, in collaboration with the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Marianas chapter, will be providing another round of free calls to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and will be hosting a community forum on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, right after the program on the 72nd Commemoration of the Death March in the Philippines, which is also called "Araw ng Kagitingan" (Day of Valor).

Laguatan

Lamkin

"Since the Department of Homeland Security has received the recommendation from Secretary John Kerry of the U.S. Department of State and has not made any decision for the TPS, let us continue to campaign for the full TPS designation of the Philippines. Let us show the Filipino unity and solidarity for this great cause," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG and NaFFAA Marianas chapters for CNMI and Guam.

In March 27, during the designated national day for community action to call DHS to grant TPS for the Philippines by the USP4GG and the coalition of Filipino-American groups in the U.S. and the Marianas, 40 Filipinos, U.S. citizens, and non-U.S. citizens availed the free calls to DHS and showed support.

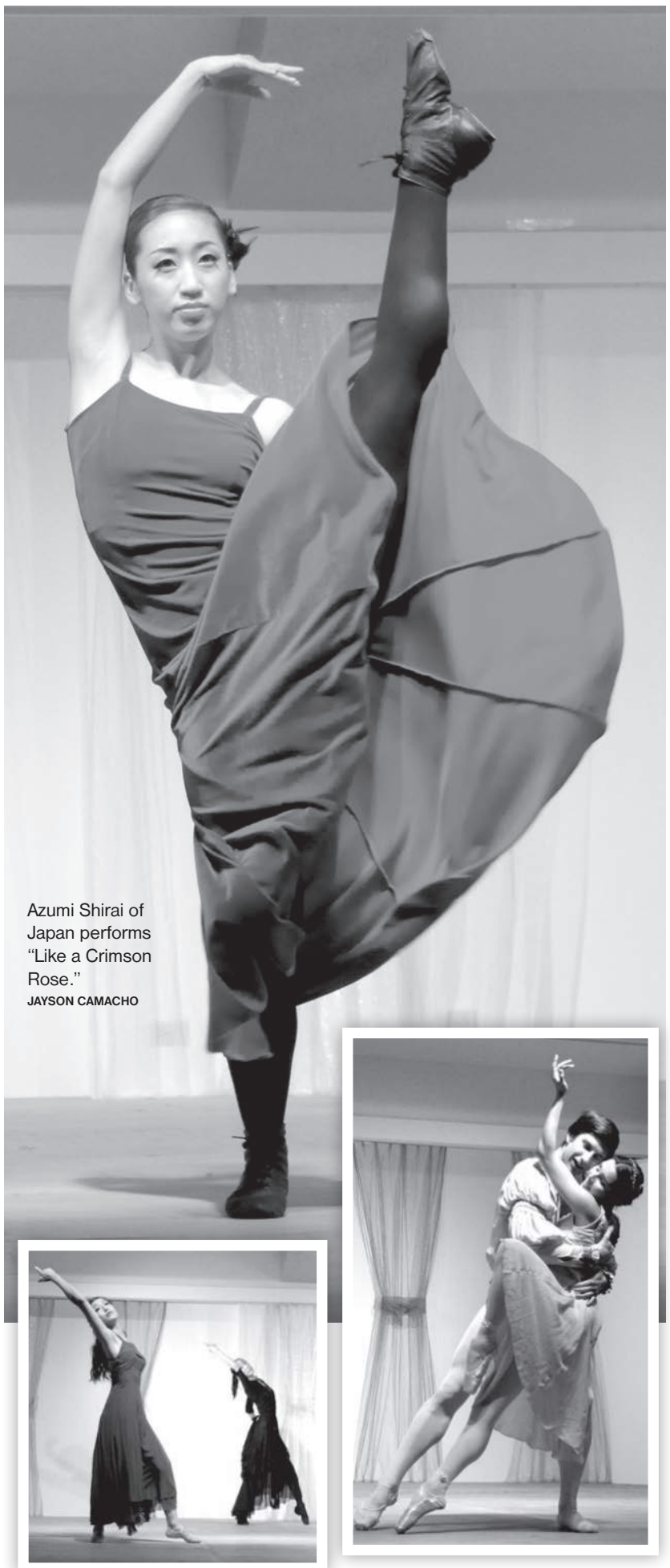
The Department of Homeland Security is reportedly looking into the legal justification for a full or partial TPS for the Philippines (only those who have families in the areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan/ Yolanda.

"Again, I am urging all Filipinos in the U.S., Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam to call the Department of Homeland Security at (202)-282-8495 and the White House at (202) 456-1111. Please say the following message: 'Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines must be designated. I urge the Department of Homeland Security (if calling DHS) and President Obama (if calling the White House) that full TPS be designated for the Philippines. My name is (say your name) from (say your city and state),'" Lamkin reiterated.

" It has come to my attention that some *kababayans* [compatriots] are still confused about TPS. Hence, we are encouraging the Filipinos to participate in the community forum," added Lamkin.

California lawyer Ted Laguatan, spokesperson and legal counsel of U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance, is reminding Filipinos in the CNMI to be careful with agencies and individuals who are providing immigration services for a fee who are not authorized by law. ***(PR)***

Hundreds treated to an exquisite ballet concert



Azumi Shirai of Japan performs "Like a Crimson Rose."
JAYSON CAMACHO

JAYSON CAMACHO
Etsuko Nishizawa, left, and Mayumi Akeo perform a piece called "Pianist."

JAYSON CAMACHO
Olga Malinovskaya and Artjom Maksakov perform a *pas de deux* from "Romeo & Juliet."

JAYSON CAMACHO
Three young members of the corps de ballet dance during the "Paquita Grand Pas."

Hundreds of community members attended an exquisite ballet performance presented by the Performing Arts Society and Glushko's Academy last Saturday and Sunday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The event featured performances from two ballet stars of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada and three modern ballet performers from Japan and Saipan's very own ballet performers.

Opening the production was a slideshow presentation of previous ballet concerts staged by Glushko's Academy on Saipan.

Azumi Shirai of Japan kicked off the night with her performance of "La Rosa Roja (Like a Crimson Rose"). Etsuko Nishizawa and Mayumi Akeo of Japan did a dance duet called "Pianist." Olga Malinovskay and Artjom Maksakov of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada performed a piece called "Adagio," an excerpt from "Romeo and Juliet."

The main event, called "Paquita Grand Pas," showcased a lengthier ballet performance by Malinovskay and Maksakov, with solos by Cerinn Hwang, Sakura Imaya, and Joy Sizemore, and supporting performances by 30 of Glushko's Academy's young students.

Audiences of the two-night show agreed that this year's production was one of the best yet, showcasing bravura performances, particularly from its two Russian ballet stars.

Anna Glushko, creative director and choreographer of Glushko's Academy, said she is happy with the turnout.

"I am delighted and I don't think that it could be any greater than it happened. Because we were inside we didn't have to worry about the weather and our girls worked very hard and I am glad that the ballet performers [from Japan and Russia] made this night very memorable," Glushko said.

Glushko hopes that the international ballerinas would continue to perform on Saipan.

Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden, president of the Performing Arts Society, said that they are fortunate to have this year's performers.

"They are a very flawless couple performers we have ever had in the CNMI, and they are the highest-ranked professionals that we have ever had. They were stunning," Oden said.

He said the concert was the culmination of many hours of hard work behind the scene.

"This took 2,000 hours of time to prepare for costumes, rehearsals, building the stage, and repainting," Oden said.

The ballet concert's sponsors are Bank of Guam, Mango Resort Saipan, Blue Lagoon Realty, First Hawaiian Bank, David Burger CPA, William & Naoko Fitzgerald, Pete Shilling & "Associate Insurance", DFS Galleria, Bank of Saipan, attorney Steve Nutting, Godfather's Bar, Dental Care, attorney Michael Dotts, Perry Inos Jr., Pacific Trading, Co., Saipan Pacific Subsea, Alex Aquingoc, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort Saipan, Revolving Restaurant 360, *Marianas Variety*, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Siberia Restaurant. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

One ballerina shows poise and grace during her solo.
JAYSON CAMACHO

Artjom Maksakov executes a *grand jeté* as "Romeo" in an excerpt of "Romeo & Juliet."
JAYSON CAMACHO

JAYSON CAMACHO
From left, Anna Glushko, Olga Malinovskaya, Artjom Maksakov, Azumi Shirai, Etsuko Nishizawa, and Mayumi Akeo pose for *Saipan Tribune* after the event.

OVR and SRC offer electronic links to surveys

Every three years, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation—in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council and through technical assistance and support provided by San Diego State University Interwork Institute—conducts a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment to gather information and learn more about the current needs of people with disabilities in the CNMI.

The information obtained will help OVR, SRC, and partner agencies to make the most effective decisions about programs serving individuals with disabilities. Survey results will also help OVR and SRC to design training programs for staff that will help them improve the quality and timeliness of services.

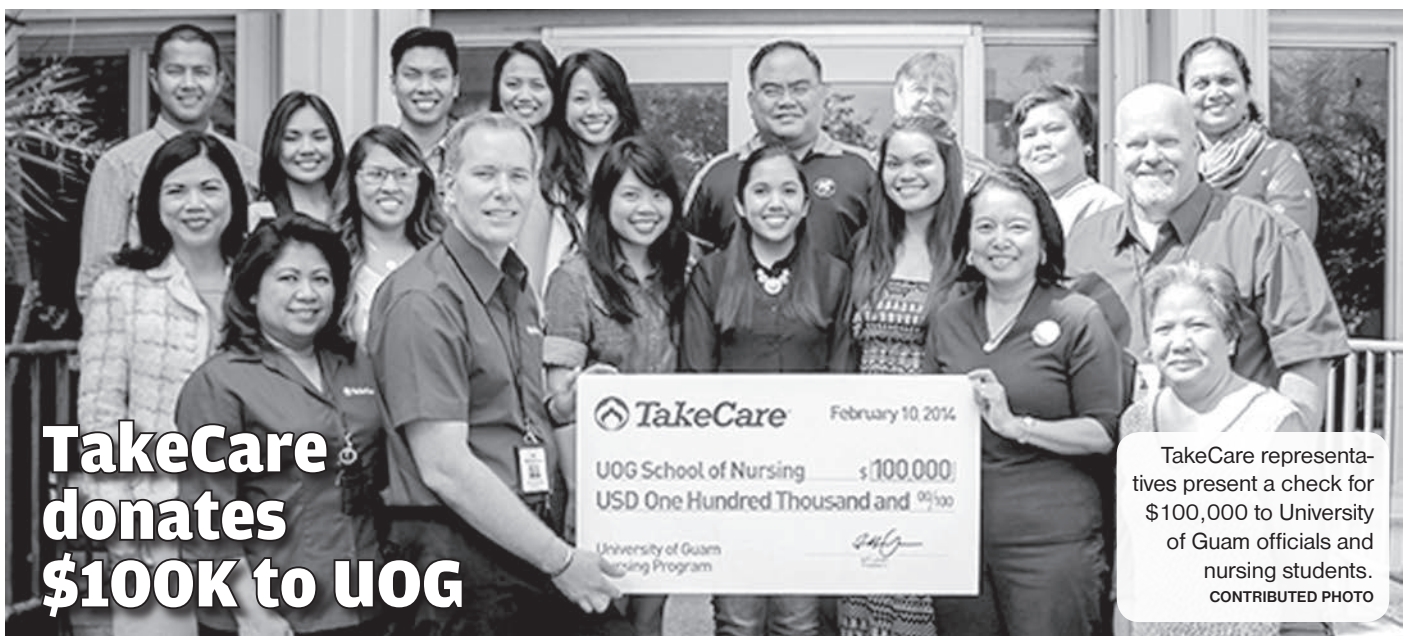
Two surveys are available electronically and are designed for specific groups:

■ **https://sdsuedu-cation.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_893GXoLmnPpOChf**: This survey is to be completed by a person with a disability, a family member of a person with a disability, or a caregiver of a person with a disability. If you are a former consumer, a current consumer, or a potential future consumer of OVR, we would appreciate also hearing from you. A consumer is defined as a person who meets eligibility criteria for and is receiving OVR or Voc Rehab services.

■ **https://sdsu-education.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_00xXrWhVG6GVc7H**: Please take this survey if you are a community partner from educational agencies, government agencies, community rehabilitation programs (aka OVR vendors), advocates (including members of disability-related boards and councils), attorneys, employers/businesses, workforce training providers, etc. Note: Community partners, if you have been scheduled and confirmed to attend/participate in OVR/SRC's focus groups or individual interviews the week of March 31, please do not take this electronic survey.

The surveys are voluntary and anonymous. However, OVR and SRC cannot emphasize enough how important the surveys are to identifying the current needs of people with disabilities on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and using the data to direct and guide program planning for the overall improvement of service delivery.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to request the survey in an alternative or accessible format, contact Dr. Mark Tucker of SDSU-II at mtucker@interwork.sdsu.edu. The surveys will be available through April 15, 2014. ***(OVR)***


TakeCare
February 10, 2014
UOG School of Nursing $100,000
USD One Hundred Thousand and 00/100
University of Guam Nursing Program

TakeCare representatives present a check for $100,000 to University of Guam officials and nursing students. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TakeCare donates $100K to UOG

TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. has donated $100,000 to the University of Guam School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The funds have enabled the Nursing Program to upgrade its Learning Resource Center Simulation Lab, which is a state-of-the-art facility featuring an observation room, audio and video recording for simulations, new lab equipment including wall units for oxygen and suction systems to simulate the hospital environment. This lab provides students increased opportunities to practice and learn their skills and enables the University to maintain high standards in nursing education.

In addition, the funds will also be used to provide scholarships for Nursing and Health Science students, graduate education and continued professional development for faculty and will fund computer lab support and recruitment and retention initiatives.

"Through this continued partnership with TakeCare, the University of Guam's Nursing and Health Sciences programs have been strengthened," said Dr. Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. "We appreciate the support and will continue to use the funding to enhance our programs." ***(PR)***

2 Guam Guard soldiers return from deployment

Two soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard returned from deployments Friday night.

Capt. Arnold Arizala, one of four soldiers from the 1990th Contingency Contracting Team, returned to Guam Friday night after more than eight months in Afghanistan, where he served as part of a highly specialized team tasked with handling all contracting actions in the Afghanistan area of operations.

Another Guam soldier, Sgt. Robert Bamba, came home on leave to visit with family. This is the first time Bamba has been home since he left as a member of Task Force Guam's Delta Company for a 10-month deployment last year. Bamba is currently receiving medical care for injuries he received while deployed.

The three remaining soldiers of the 1990th CCT are expected to leave the theatre of operations with the next 30 days and return home shortly thereafter. ***(PR)***

Navy, Guam Fire Department partner to extinguish grassfire

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy sailors and civilian firefighters partnered with the Guam Fire Department to extinguish a grassfire that affected approximately 20 acres of land on Nimitz Hill on April 5-6.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 deployed an MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter that conducted five daytime and five nighttime water drops while three U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services crews fought the fire on the ground alongside Guam Fire Department counterparts.

"The dedication and professionalism of the pilots and crew of HSC-25 attest to the Navy's commitment to preserve life and property," said Joint Region Marianas chief of staff Capt. Mark Scovill. "The day and night trainings they consistently conduct around the island prepare the crew to respond to emergencies such as the recent grassfires."

Continuous training proved beneficial to the community as the blaze was extinguished preventing evacuation of nearby residents and damage to structures.

"The team here [in] Guam relies upon mutually supporting assets across the military and civilian sector to be ready day or night to respond to any number of scenarios," said HSC-25 commanding officer Cmdr. Gregory Leland. "Our crews train relentlessly to provide 24-7, 365 days of search and rescue capability as well as our need to provide combat ready aircraft and crews in the Pacific Command area. The syllabus used to train for combat plays well into the skill sets needed to fight fires, rescue people from life-threatening scenarios and be on call for any number of unplanned events, be it terrorist scenario, humanitarian assistance, or disaster relief. The Island Knights stand ready with our brothers and sisters in the Coast Guard, Air Force, and Guam first responders to maintain the ability to help those in need. We will not fail, we are always on watch."

Navy firefighters provided fire suppression with three fire engines in partnership with Guam Fire Department personnel. The Navy firefighters fought the blaze at Sasa Valley and Turner Road. "Our firefighters have a great working relationship with Guam Fire Department," said NBG Fire Chief Robert Green. "We know we can depend on one another to protect life and prevent the destruction of property." ***(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 8, 2006

'Rebate cut to cripple economy'

Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials have expressed their opposition to the government's proposal to reduce tax rebates, warning that it would cripple the local economy. SCC president Charles V. Cepeda said that "any changes to the rebate structure will cripple our [already] ailing economy." "Do we want to really kill the economy?" asked Cepeda, noting that there may not even be enough revenue from the rebate tax if investors start leaving the island. He also noted that giving the rebate funds to the Public School System and Northern Marianas College as proposed by House Bill 15-51 would not be sufficient.

Smog may be pushed out during weekend

Winds are expected to push the smog out of the Marianas over the weekend, according to the Emergency Management Office yesterday. EMO, in its haze and dust advisory, said winds could pick up from the east and should push the smog out of the Marianas by Saturday night or early Sunday. EMO also stated that based on the assessment conducted by the National Weather Service, Guam and USGS, there are no significant sulfurous volcanic gases in the air over the region. But EMO advised residents with respiratory problems or asthma to minimize prolonged outdoor air exposures during the time that dust is present in the air.

April 8, 2007

'We want concrete military projects'

If federalization is inevitable in view of the need to ensure greater border control in the Marianas, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is asking the Fitial administration to negotiate with the U.S. military for specific development projects—"more than just a spillover from the buildup in Guam." "Concerning the $15-billion military buildup in Guam, we're hoping that this time, the Commonwealth will benefit more than just the spillover. We need to have concrete projects here," said Chamber president Juan T. Guerrero. He said border security and the military buildup was discussed by the business sector with the visiting congressional staffers last Thursday.

Furloughs eyed for Tinian govt

The Tinian local government may resort to employee furloughs or temporary termination in view of a nearly 40 percent budget reduction within the CNMI government. Rex I. Palacios, financial consultant to Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas, said Thursday that options are being assessed as to how the municipality would be able to handle further cuts in its budget. "How could Tinian survive any further budget reduction? There are drastic measures that need to be done. Furlough is a possibility. What else can you do if there's no funding available?" asked Palacios.

April 8, 2008

Saipan gaming proposal back from the dead

A new Saipan gambling bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. The measure, titled the "Video Gaming and Entertainment Card Games Act of 2008," proposes to legalize casino gaming on Saipan, particularly at the former La Fiesta shopping mall. Sponsored by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, the bill is awaiting a vote on the House floor. The proposed legislation is similar to three bills rejected by the previous Legislature. It would allow video lottery terminals, as well as Texas Hold'em poker, black jack and baccarat games, to be operated at the former La Fiesta shopping mall.

Nine govt employees test positive for drugs

Nine government employees tested positive during random drug tests conducted by the Office of Personnel Management between 2005-2007. Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace director Frances Torres-Salas said the nine were identified from a total of 300 drug tests conducted on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Individuals were tested for the presence of cocaine, marijuana, opiates, amphetamines, and phencyclidine in their urine. "All government employees are subjected to a random drug test if they are identified to be 'safety-sensitive' personnel or hold a 'safety-sensitive' position," Torres-Salas said. Safety-sensitive positions include law enforcement officers and bus drivers, among others. Random tests are done on a quarterly basis, and an average of about 60 tests are conducted per quarter.

Inos asks for 50 more employees for Executive Branch

OUTSTANDING AIRMEN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three members of the Guam Air National Guard were recognized for their superior achievements and exceptional performance during the Outstanding Airmen of the Year enlisted awards banquet on March 29 at the Leo Palace Resort Guam. Pictured from left to right are: Master Sergeant Richard Flores, SNCO of the Year from the 254th Security Forces Squadron; Staff Sergeant John Chaco, NCO of the Year from the 254SFS; and Senior Airman Jonathan Castro from the 254th Red Horse Squadron.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked the Legislature to continue to provide him the flexibility to hire another 50 employees for the entire Executive Branch in fiscal year 2015, provided that these so-called "number of positions," or NOPs, are restricted to positions that are essential to the delivery of public services.

The governor said no NOP shall receive compensation in excess of the government salary ceiling, "and as long as funding for the personnel expenditures of the Executive Branch does not exceed the appropriation level."

Inos made the request in his proposed $134-million budget for fiscal year 2015 that he submitted to the Legislature.

"We request that a continued reprogramming flexibility be maintained to accommodate only those that may be faced with the most critical need," Inos told the Legislature.

The Inos administration implemented the removal of all vacant positions not attached to an examination announcement and all new positions proposed by departments and activities in an effort to maintain normal government operations without forcing any reduction in hours.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the panel would thoroughly review the governor's budget submission and would call in as early as this month some agencies for budget hearings. Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, would like to have a House budget bill ready for action in early July.

Ayuyu, Manta Ray battalions advance in JLAB contest

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Ayuyu Battalion JLAB Academic Team. From left: C/CPT Adrian Ngalongalo, C/CPT Darryl Aurelio, C/LTC Paolo Reyes, C/CSM Jerry Borja, and C/2LT Philippe Lacson. Not in photo is MSG James Burke, Kagman High School Senior Army Instructor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Ayuyu Battalion JLAB Leadership Team. From left, C/1LT Vladimir Arceo, C/2LT Kris Butters, C/2LT Isaiah Retan, C/2LT Tiara Babauta, and C/CPL Ashley Tabilisma.

For the fourth time, battalions from the CNMI have advanced into the third and final phase of the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl Level III championship competition. But for the first time in history, two schools have advanced together this far into the competition.

Out of the 1,700 plus JROTC programs worldwide that competed, only 2 percent were able to reach this level. The Ayuyu Battalion made both Academic and Leadership categories for JLAB Level III championship competition. The Manta Ray Battalion made the Leadership category for JLAB III championship competition.

The Manta Ray and Ayuyu cadets have spent countless hours studying and preparing for the competition since October 2013 and were blessed to be part of that 2 percent to have made it this far. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: C/1SG Sergio Mendiola, C/MAJ Joann Bandales (captain), C/2LT Jhean Lamberto, C/CPT Hanzel Batan, C/CPT Ella Mae Dela Cruz, C/CPT Annika Matias (co-captain), C/CPT Condrad Calub, and Saipan Southern High School Senior Army Instructor CSM Richard S. Basa.

Entertainers sought for 2014 MMAC

The 2014 March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all musicians, bands, dancers, and other entertainers to perform at this year's Commonwealth Cancer Association signature fundraiser.

L.J. Castro and Celia Mercado, 2014 MMAC entertainment committee co-chairs, are calling on interested performers to volunteer their time to show their support in the fight against cancer by performing live at the 2014 MMAC.

"We have limited slots available on a first-come, first-serve basis so please contact us as soon as possible to confirm your spot," Castro and Mercado said.

"Thousands of participants attend the MMAC every year so this is your chance to show your support in the battle against cancer by performing live for our community," Castro added.

The 2014 MMAC will be held from 6pm to 6am on May 2 to 3 at Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest anti-cancer fundraising activity in the Northern Mariana Islands and is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness and prevention programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities.

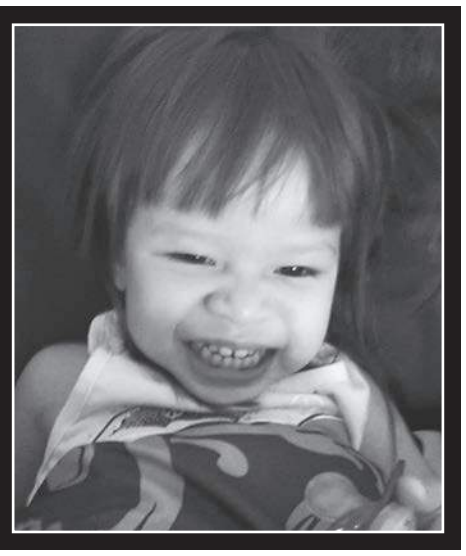
This year's MMAC title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., GPPC, Island Apparel, IT &E, Joeten Daidai Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP. Its major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, McDonald's of Saipan, Precision Medical Imaging, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., and Xerox Corp.

For those interested in performing for a good cause contact number is (670) 483-1027 or email ljmamis@gmail.com or hinalani_girl@gmail.com.

For more information on the MMAC event, call (670) 989-1987 or email emanuel_borja@gmail.com or visit the website at www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 2nd birthday to our darling Heaven Agnes Maratita Deleon Guerrero! May the good Lord continue to bless you with many more years! We love you! Always, Daddy, Mommy, Sissys, and the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Save the whales, 2014

It was well known for many years that Japan's "scientific whaling" program was a sham, designed to get around the international moratorium on hunting whales. Almost no research on the animals came from Japanese scientists; instead, whale meat kept showing up in restaurants and school lunches. Finally, Australia, a whaling country until 1978 and now an avid opponent, called Japan's bluff over the hundreds of whales it killed each year in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary surrounding Antarctica.

This week, the United Nations International Court of Justice sided with Australia, officially declaring Japan's hunt ineligible for the scientific exemption from the moratorium. Japan has said it will abide by the court's decision. It could do so by ending all whaling, or by funding real research, or by whaling outside the sanctuary.

But whaling is an expensive relic of Japan's past that does the nation little good now. The government heavily subsidizes whale capture, at the behest of a very small but influential group of older citizens who are trying to keep the tradition of whale meat consumption alive and who have resisted, out of national pride, global efforts to restrict the practice. But their efforts are failing. Younger generations of Japanese are not interested in eating whale.

This week, several Icelandic legislators proposed a study of how much whaling contributed to their nation's economy, and whether the benefits outweighed losses in tourism and international standing. Iceland catches fewer than 200 whales a year, but most of those are endangered fin whales. Norway also kills hundreds of whales each year, under a loophole known as the legal objection, which means it simply refuses to comply with the moratorium.

Ironically, the International Whaling Commission, which first imposed the moratorium, could help end the big whale hunts by amending its rules to allow more whaling. Its current restrictions are based more on political negotiation, such as its exception for indigenous peoples with long histories of whale hunting, than on science. A more scientific approach would make clear distinctions, for instance, between the hunting of endangered species and those with healthy populations.

The commission's aim should be to sustain whale species worldwide rather than to pass moral judgment on nations where hunting whales might be just as acceptable as hunting deer is in the United States. Science-based catch limits on whales, with an absolute moratorium on the killing of endangered species, would work better with such nations as Japan and Norway than a flat moratorium with leviathan-sized loopholes.

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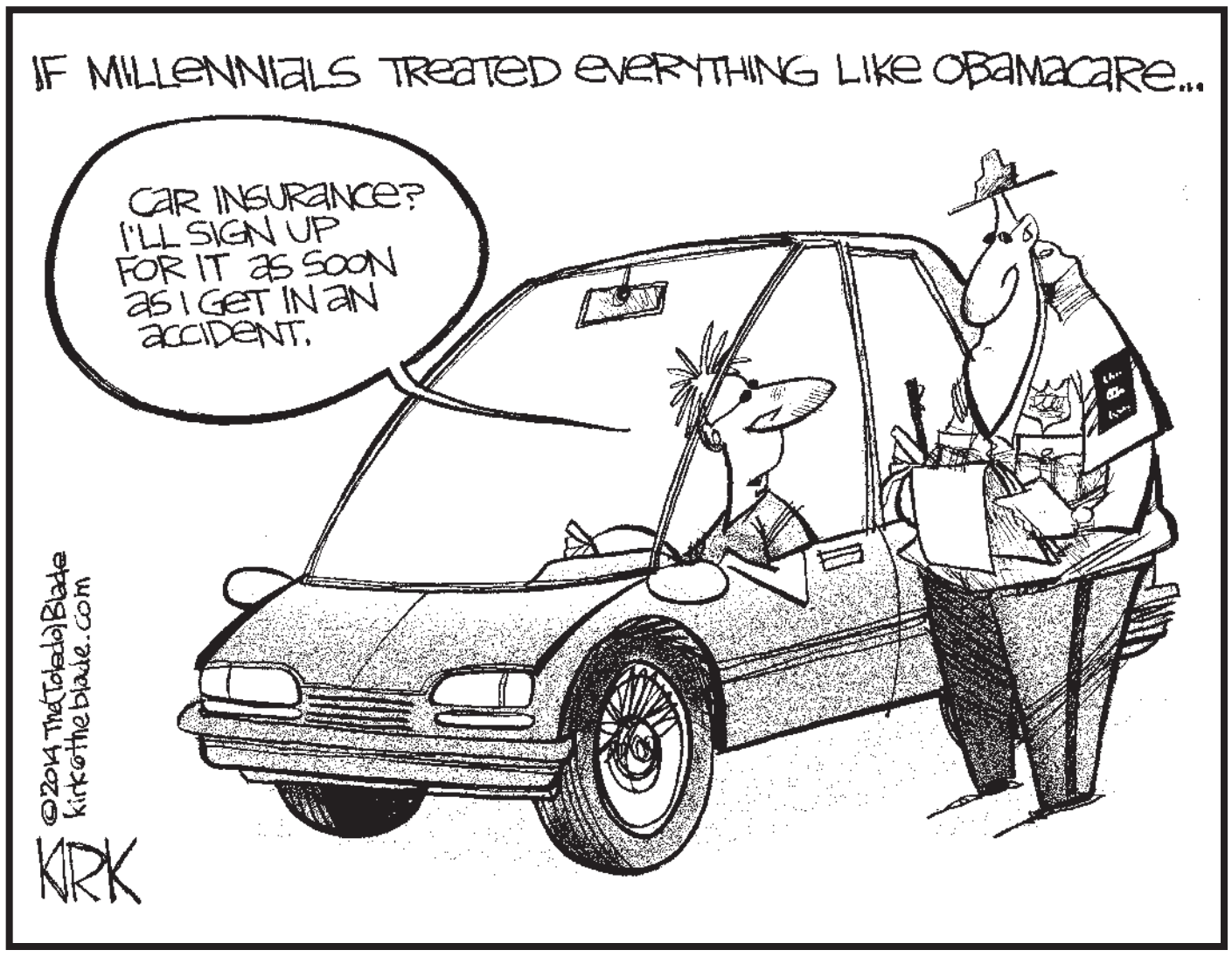
IF MILLENNIALS TREATED EVERYTHING LIKE OBAMACARE...
CAR INSURANCE? I'LL SIGN UP FOR IT AS SOON AS I GET IN AN ACCIDENT.
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KRK

Red tape rising: Five years of regulatory expansion

By JAMES L. GATTUSO and DIANE KATZ
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

In his State of the Union address earlier this year, President Obama vowed to wield his executive powers when faced with congressional resistance to his legislative agenda: "America does not stand still—and neither will I. So wherever and whenever I can take steps without legislation … that's what I am going to do."

This provocative declaration was startling in its bluntness, but it was hardly a new development. For the last five years, the president has aggressively exploited regulation to get his way. In fact, the Obama administration is very likely the most regulatory in history, issuing 157 new major rules at a cost to Americans approaching $73 billion annually.

But even this substantial figure is seriously understated. A dismaying number of regulations undergo no cost-benefit analysis. And bureaucrats also have a penchant for downplaying the costs of their initiatives.

This runaway red tape, however, can't be solely blamed on the president. Many of the regulations issued over the past five years stem from far-reaching and vaguely worded legislation such as Obamacare and the Wall Street Reform and Protection Act (commonly known as Dodd-Frank), in which Congress granted broad discretion to regulatory agencies.

Dodd-Frank alone accounted for 13 of the 26 new major rules issued during President Obama's fifth year. Altogether, the 400-plus Dodd-Frank rules represent a massive regulatory power grab that is raising the cost of banking for Americans and restricting their access to credit.

Some of the most problematic new rules of 2013 came from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, including four major rules restricting access to mortgage credit. (Each "major" rule represents costs in excess of $100 million per year.) These rules cover every aspect of financing a home—including mortgage options, eligibility standards, and even the structure and schedule of payments—that will limit financing options and thus further expand government control over Americans' lives.

Despite the potentially enormous impact, the bureau failed to quantify the actual costs of these rules.

Of the 2013 rules for which costs were released, the most expensive was an Obamacare-related mandate requiring health insurers to provide "parity" in benefits between mental health or substance abuse services and other benefits, at a cost of almost a billion dollars each year.

Ranking second was a Department of Labor rule extending government wage and overtime dictates to more live-in helpers for the disabled and elderly. Such "companionship" services have always been exempted from government wage control to make it possible for helpers to spend more time with their charges. Under the new rule, far fewer caretaking activities will qualify for the exemption, including dressing a client, preparing food not consumed in the caretaker's presence, or drawing a bath.

Hundreds more costly regulations are already in the works. The most recent Unified Agenda—a semi-annual compendium of planned regulatory actions by agencies—lists 125 "economically significant" rules in the pipeline. This includes dozens of additional Dodd–Frank, Obamacare and very costly Environmental Protection Agency rulemakings.

The red tape doesn't just envelop businesses. Regulations increasingly restrict lifestyle choices that once were left to individual preference. The Food and Drug Administration is preparing to remove trans fats from the list of food ingredients that are "generally recognized as safe," an initial step toward prohibition. On the auto front, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration this week issued a rule requiring a rear-mounted video camera and in-vehicle screen to reduce the likelihood of a vehicle striking a pedestrian while in reverse.

Reforms of the regulatory process are critically needed. Congress should increase scrutiny of new and existing regulations to ensure that each is necessary, and that costs are minimized.

For starters, lawmakers should require congressional approval before any new major regulation takes effect. They should also prepare analyses of the regulatory consequences of all proposed legislation before a vote is held, and impose expiration dates ("sunset") on all major regulations.

In addition, independent agencies' regulations, such as the Securities Exchange Commission, should be made subject to the full regulatory review process.

Without such decisive action, the costs of red tape will continue to grow, and the economy—and average Americans—will be the victims.

James L. Gattuso is senior research fellow in regulatory policy, and Diane Katz is research fellow in regulatory policy in the Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation*. Readers may write to the authors in care of* The Heritage Foundation*, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org.*

Areglu I Sahyan Linala`ta

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Estaba sunidun pot kilu`us gi chagu` hogsu`. Umafagcha` yan destrosiun lai casinon Saipan gi para ma-inbette (invest) giya Tinian. Mamaisen-yu` bendision.

Todu planon Mega Stars ni ha inklulusu 1000 na kuatton hotel yan golf course mana` fan para ensegidas. I manma`gas i kompania mampos man-inestotba ni dinagen lehislatura piot ginen iya Tinian ni umasegura na ti para uma-apprueba casinon Saipan. Dispues ha latigasu i asuntu `nai mabota ya ma-apprueba casinon Saipan.

Gaige pa`gu i fumabot mayamag kinalamten Tinian na manmama` hagan Chinu. Kada malagnos ilun niha ya guaha buruka, mahala halom pot no u fan mali`e `sino digueya.

Este na disareglu yumamag appottunidat tautau Tinian gi bandan cho`chu, fiñkas yan homlu` na appottunidat kinalamten. Mauleg umafaisen i dos senadot niha as Francisco yan Joaquin Borja kau este na destrosiu i hagas maguife, silensiu? Ai na rekueddu gi mannamase`. Ke lau hafa binabaña u felis hinanau casino giya Tinian? Na ti kontodu Saipan man-mirese?

Todu planon man-mauleg para Tinian gatdun gi mattiñgan lache na disposision areglu. Guiya este i disareglu `nai ma-atan i asuntu gi halom homhum lau ma`lag i ha`ane. Dios mihu!

Lastima sa` guaha mas ke dos mit na cho`chu` para u ma-establese ni maliñgu kulan chiop `nai man-ina ma`lag i atdau. Dalai `ste!

Retirun petsonat

Guaha siha palabras mauleg ta hahassu yan kumepula` na semana: "Inañgoghu", "dinida", "hineñgge", "animu" yan "inasi`i". Magahet na gaige este siha na palabras madiskute gi la tatlikulu` na eskalera pot relihion, segun i finana`guen i Nanalibreta.

Bes enkuandu, mauleg ta faisen maisa hit kau ta añgoghu i taihinekog na nina` siñan i Saina? Hafa dinidamu? Kau man-hoñgge hau nu guiya? Gai animu hau pumetsige tinago`ña? Yan kau siña un` asi`i prohimumu sin ditension? Gi halom dinanche na ineppe gi entalu` este siha na palabras `nai libianu un` espehos maisa hau manu `nai gaige sessu fafayimu kumu kilisyanu.

Gi kinalamtenta, lamegai besis `nai ta soda` maisa hit gi posision `nai ta kuestiotiona mañge i Saina gi oran didog na chinatsaga-ta. Gaige ha` gi fihonmu. Lau na pasensia hau sa` taya` mafatitinas gotpe gi halom mañglu`.

Todu kinalamten gai pasu `sino fina`pos. Ti un` hanau mo`na `an ti un` pega gi menan i primet hinago`mu i segundu pasumu. Atan este siha na palabras ya in` kepula` kulan ritiru para hagu pa`gu na kuaresma.

Kabilosu lau dañosu

I Chamorro i mas kabilosu na finañagu gi lini`ehu. Tat ti hana` siña achogha` para finataiña. Pot ihemplo: Piniloghu na u guaha mas inadahe gi sentadan man-makukula haga` niha (dai`alasis).

Dios tiampare: Un` dia antes de dai`alasis, sige man-atilifon na "guaha guine inasnen tukun, mantika na fritadan babue yan guaka yan tininun mantikan tiyan babue. Dispues mataluye otru cha`ut: soft drinks ni mamatmos tinilada na asukat. Dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

Sige lalalu` un` amiguhu pot mana` paragüe` chumupa sa` kanset gofesña. Ilegña, "Hekua` haf` na pa`gu `nai kansetyu` man-otdin i mediku para bai` para chumupa". Sige hu konsidera dispues ha totche, "Propiu na otden `an ma-mauleg ha` gofeshu lau gi taiguine `nai esta sala` haf` baliña".

■ ■ ■

Dispues, man-mana`e amot niha para u gimen pot tres dias. Dispues u fan mariseta pot adelantu. Machule` i guaguan amot ya mapega gi hilu` lamasan chumochu sin magimen.

`Nai inadite ni chetnotña makone` para i hospitat emerensia sa` chatguiya. Finaisen ni mediku kau ha gimen amotña. Man-dage na "huñgan". Piligru dinage gi ma-otdin na amot. Dos klase manana`e i malañgu.

`An magahet na un` gimen i primet ya ti fina mauleg hau, mana`e hau ni otru klase ni debi u inaregla chetnotmu. I dinage hagu mismu umesaguen maisa hau. Hagu i malañgu ahe` ti i mediku!

■ ■ ■

Guaha `nos kuantos eskaleran umakamu` gi kustumbren Chamorro. Ha embrarasa i sigiente: Mamaisen saina, maplasu, magutus finihu, komplimentu, umakamu`, fandañgo yan uma-ma`ug gi fina` kamarote. Kase na tiempu i uma-ma`ug gaige giya monana. Kulan na`mamahlau lau enague` masusesede na tiempu. Estaba i kuestion, "Gima`-mu pat gima`hu?" Pa`gu, "Gomamu pat gomahu?"

■ ■ ■

Guaha siha naturat na disposision ni guaha `nai hu kuestiona. Pot ihemplo: Haf` na i manog yan paluma (kumu ti man-gugupu) todu i tiempu chumochochu? Maseha ñgai`an na tiempu gaige na mandedeñgkut entre cha`guan yan haf` sineda`ña gi hilu` tanu`.

Otru: Kahulu` i atdau gi sanhaya dispues tumunog gi sanlagu. Tatnai matulaika este, diariu. Disues, todu i un` dagau hulu` siempre u poduñg papa`. Lokue`, kau guaha sikretu siña ma-na`na`? Na ti magahet na kumu ini`ina ni atdau siempre un` dia u paguan ennau na malumot?

■ ■ ■

Ta rikohe famaguon `an para tafan man-bisita malañgu gi hospitat. Na ti ennau na lugat para man-malañgu? Haf` na para un` chansa man-tinatme famaguon chetnot gi lugat chetnot? Buente mauleg na intension lau lache na disposision.

Healthcare enrollment numbers of dubious consequence

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

It was a notable week for the Obama administration.

In the waning hours of March 31—the "official" deadline for open enrollment—the White House released a big number: 7.1 million Americans had selected a private health insurance plan through the new health insurance marketplace created by the health-care law.

This was no small feat for an administration that has spent the last several months moving the goal posts.

So it was understandable when on Tuesday afternoon, a visibly relieved President Barack Obama took what even the law's detractors might concede was a deserved opportunity to spike the football.

But the euphoric declarations from the Rose Garden were vaguely reminiscent of President George W. Bush's ill-fated and imprudent "Mission Accomplished" speech given after the U.S. toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein: premature and out of context.

Kind of like a touchdown dance after a field goal.

The 7.1 million figure, which the president says is "on top of the more than 3 million young adults who have gained insurance under this law by staying on their family's plan… (and) millions more who have gained access through Medicaid expansion and the Children's Health Insurance Program," is of dubious consequence.

Not to mention that the curious release of such a precise number after months of insisting that exact enrollment figures were unavailable is cause enough for suspicion. As The Wall Street Journal editorialized, "Regardless of your partisan sympathies, the White House's selective disclosure is a crime against transparency and accountable government."

The figure itself caused National Journal's Ron Fournier to ask: "What are the real numbers? … We won't know for weeks whether the administration accomplished its goal of adding 7 million people to the insurance rolls, including a plurality of healthy young adults. The numbers announced Tuesday, while impressive, are incomplete and misleading."

And while the Los Angeles Times reported that a mysteriously still-unpublished survey by the RAND Corp. estimates a total of 9.5 million previously uninsured people having gained coverage under the new law (through private insurance, Medicaid expansion and young adults through a parent's plan), only a third of those who signed up in the exchanges are newly insured, and just half have actually paid their premiums, a necessary component of obtaining coverage.

Then there is the question of how many people who have signed up for insurance will stay insured by consistently paying their premiums, which are expected to rise in 2015.

Further calling into question the credibility of any health-care-related numbers, Bloomberg columnist Megan McArdle points out the last-minute enrollment surge—an "amazingly powerful testament to the American powers of procrastination"—has probably "blown to hell" all the enrollment data anyway.

Hmmm.

Even if we are to stipulate that millions more Americans have obtained coverage, the reported number of newly insured Americans is still a fraction of the number Obama initially claimed he wanted to cover (30 million) and well below the expected reduction in the percentage of uninsured Americans the Congressional Budget Office had originally projected.

To millions of disillusioned Americans, the only number that matters is that following the dollar sign on their insurance bill, which has remained stubbornly high, and for many conjures memories of the president's trifecta of broken promises—you can keep your plan, you can keep your doctors, your premiums will go down.

Based on current data, however it shakes out, it's unlikely that the president's signature law will be a spectacular failure—no death spiral has yet materialized—but it's just as unlikely to be a spectacular success. If it were, Democrats up for re-election in November would not continue to keep their distance, carefully parsing their words of praise and interlacing statements with concessions that repair is still needed.

But repair is unlikely to come in Washington while, as Fournier puts it, "the win-at-all-cost mentality (that) helped create a culture in which a partisan-line vote was deemed sufficient for passing transcendent legislation," remains unchallenged.

And so for the president as for Congress, the next Obamacare-related numbers of significance will come at the polls this November.

Flight 370: How can an airliner just vanish? Simple

By PETER GARRISON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

If you want to participate in the search for Flight 370, try this.

Bring up Google Earth on your computer and rotate the introductory globe until you are looking down at the North Atlantic. A line from New York to London should lie more or less across the middle of the Earth's disk. Zoom in until the "eye alt"—displayed in the lower right-hand corner—is about 260 miles. You are looking at roughly the size of the search area for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Now, it so happens that the North Atlantic route is one of the busiest air traffic corridors in the world, and airliners are strung out along it like beads, often just a few miles apart. There are dozens of them in the area you have picked, plainly visible silver birds against the dark ocean.

Try to find one.

You won't. The ocean is vaster than you imagine and the airplanes more minute. Far from a needle, an airliner is more like a single speck of dust in a haystack. Electronic communications have accustomed us to the idea that tiny things like cellphones are easily located in large areas, like the United States. But when the cellphone's battery dies, you can barely find it in your bedroom.

Soon Flight 370's "black boxes" will emit their last ping, and the wreckage—it's pretty certain at this point that we're talking about wreckage, not an intact 777 camouflaged with tarps or palm fronds somewhere in Kazakhstan or the Maldives—will lie enveloped in its shroud of darkness and silence. Perhaps bits of floating debris will wash ashore in future months or years—some things float forever—and they may or may not be noticed or identified as belonging to the vanished airliner.

But even if an identifiable bit of the wreckage was found today, it would not reduce the size of the search area—speculative to begin with—in any useful way. And if by a miracle the black boxes are recovered, the more interesting one—the cockpit voice recorder—won't tell us what was happening in the cockpit at the time the plane changed course because its memory holds only the preceding two hours of sound.

Despite the widespread feeling that it is incredible—"in this day and age!"—that something like an airliner full of people could go missing, it is in fact perfectly credible once you accept that some highly unusual events were required to bring it about. No matter which system you use for tracking the position of airliners—or your teenage children—there will always be some way that it can be defeated, deliberately or by accident.

The search will go on pro forma, though it was extremely unlikely at the outset that the airplane could be found, and the passage of time has pushed unlikelihood closer and closer to impossibility. Air France Flight 447, which crashed in the mid-Atlantic in 2009 and was located two years later, seems to provide a precedent for near-miraculous recoveries. But that situation was quite different: Debris was found immediately, and the search area was tiny. Difficult as the search was, it was easy compared with that for Flight 370. This time, hope persists because only at the gates of hell is it ever wholly abandoned.

How are you doing on Google Earth? Nothing yet? I'll take a needle in a haystack any day.

Peter Garrison writes a monthly accident-analysis column for Flying *magazine. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

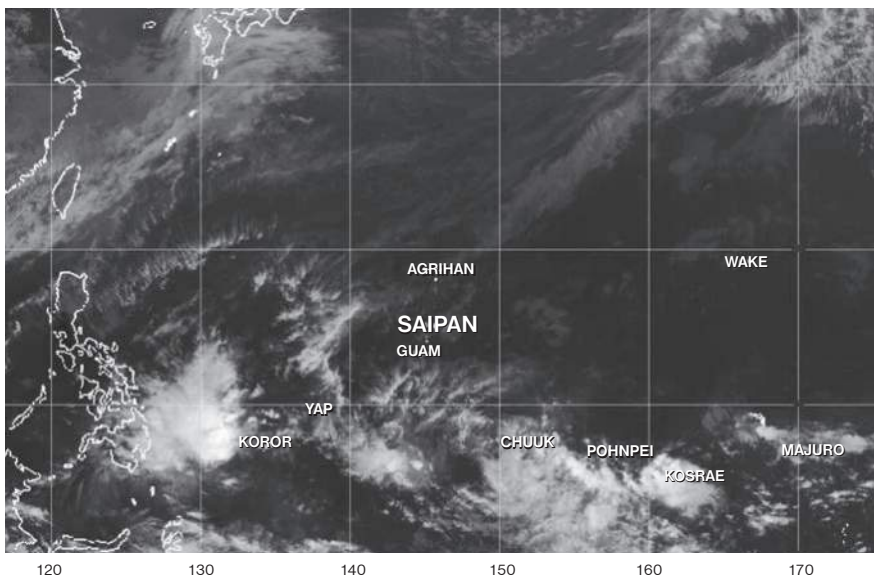
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲83	▼52
Hong Kong	Showers	▲73	▼69
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼62
Manila	Cloudy	▲93	▼80
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
New York	Showers	▲50	▼47
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼47
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲66	▼51
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼54
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲67	▼42
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼51
Washington, DC	Rain	▲54	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Peipah (05W) is centered 95 miles west of Koror near 7N133E moving west at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring just west of Koror 90 miles west of a line from 5N134E to 10N135E and southeast of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 9N138E to 6N146E. For additional information, see warnings issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A shear line extends northeastward from 15N130E to 23N150E and continues as a cold front to beyond 25N155E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found up to 180 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends southeast from Tropical Depression Peipah to a circulation centered near 3N152E to end at EQ155E. Scattered showers are occurring south of Chuuk and Pohnpei south of a line from 4N148E to 7N151E to 7N155E to 2N162E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae within 180 miles of 5N162E and over Kwajelein and Majuro east of a line from 10N164E to 4N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:45 PM	12:58 AM
Wednesday	1:33 PM	1:41 AM
Thursday	2:21 PM	2:22 AM
Friday	3:09 PM	3:02 AM
Saturday	3:57 PM	3:42 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Bordallo honored for leadership in healthcare innovation

WASHINGTON—The Healthcare Leadership Council, a coalition of leaders of the nation's premier health care companies and organizations, last week honored Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo as a "Champion of Healthcare Innovation" at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Bordallo was honored at the council's annual Healthcare Innovations Expo on Capitol Hill. The daylong event is dedicated to showcasing new developments in health care technologies, treatments and practices. This year's event featured, among other exhibits, new transcatheter heart valve technologies, medication to treat hypertension in newborns, and improved transmission and uses of healthcare data to improve patient care.

"Innovation is a necessity, not an option, in addressing the challenges facing our healthcare system. To increase accessibility to high-quality care, improve patient outcomes, and strengthen cost-efficiency requires constant improvement in the tools, technologies, medicines and approaches used to prevent and treat disease and elevate wellness," said HLC president Mary R. Grealy. "We applaud Representative Bordallo's leadership, dedication, and vision in advancing the quality and cost-effectiveness of American healthcare." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Healthcare Leadership Council president Mary R. Grealy, left, honors Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo as a "Champion of Healthcare Innovation" at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KURT FREDRICKSON

Rear Adm. Cari Thomas and Master Chief Petty Officer Christopher Windnagle recognize Enlisted Person of the Year Petty Officer 2nd Class Zachary Jambor at an awards banquet at Base Honolulu last March 21, 2014.

2 Coast Guardsmen named persons of the year for 2013

HONOLULU—Two Coast Guard petty officers were recognized as the 2013 Active-Duty enlisted person of the year and Reserve enlisted person of the year for the 14th Coast Guard District during a banquet at Coast Guard Base Honolulu last March 21.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Zachary Jambor, an intelligence specialist attached to Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Hawaii, and Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Genereux, a reservist machinery technician assigned to Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, Guam, were selected as the EPOY and REPOY.

The EPOY Program is designed to recognize exemplary men and women from the active and reserve enlisted work force who are top performers and reflect the Coast Guard's core values of "Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty."

Considered the "best and brightest" from the field, these individuals are selected by a panel of senior enlisted members and evaluated against a set of established criteria that includes performance, work ethics, military bearing, standards of conduct and a strong community service commitment.

These regional winners are eligible for national honors along with their peers from other Coast Guard regions across the nation. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Michael P. Leavitt, will recognize the national winners in an award ceremony later this spring. ***(USCG)***

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER TIMOTHY TREGONING

Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Genereux, a machinery technician at Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, was recognized as the 2013 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year for the 14th Coast Guard District.

EU supports Pacific enterprises at regional trade show

SUVA, Fiji–Four enterprises from the Pacific have been supported by the European Union to showcase their products to international buyers at Trade Pasifika 2014.

The enterprises—Liman TL and Maubere Mountain Coffee, both from Timor-Leste; Women in Business Development Inc. from Samoa; and the Crab Company (Fiji) Ltd from Fiji—are just four of the many enterprises from the Pacific that are exhibiting at this year's trade show, which is currently under way at the Vodafone Arena, Suva, Fiji.

Support for the four enterprises has been facilitated through the European Union-funded Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade project, which works with private sector enterprises in strengthening the export capacity of Pacific countries in the agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and livestock sectors. This project is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The trade show features the best of agriculture, aquaculture and tourism products from 17 Pacific Island countries.

IACT project Team Leader, Samu Turagacati, said that Trade Pasifika is a valuable opportunity for small and medium enterprises looking to export overseas.

"The remoteness of some of our Pacific enterprises puts them in a challenging position when it comes to gaining access to larger offshore markets for their products. Trade Pasifika provides a platform for these enterprises to meet with buyers who they otherwise may not be able to meet, foster business relationships, and secure market leads for their products," he added.

Turagacati said that European Union's support for enterprises at trade shows is vital in helping the Pacific to become a recognised provider of high quality, consistent, safe, clean products.

It is expected that exhibitors will be able to establish key business contacts that may lead to trading opportunities at the three-day event.

Women in Business
Developme Inc (WIBDI)
"Helping families earn an income whe live with the as they have."
IN BUSINESS,
WE PLAY FAIR.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Display of products by Women in Business Development Inc. at Trade Pasifika. WIBDI is one of the four enterprises that have been supported by the European Union through the IACT project to feature at the trade show.

These contacts, Turagacati says, can either be people who want to buy and distribute products, or those who are part of the distribution chain and can provide valuable information about the export market.

He explained that a careful selection process was followed by the IACT team to select enterprises to exhibit at Trade Pasifika. Expressions of interest were sent to enterprises that met the criteria and were export ready, or already exporting. Out of this, he said, four enterprises came back confirming their participation.

Turagacati says that Trade Pasifika also provides exhibitors with the opportunity to learn from each other, especially in the areas of product branding, packaging, promotion, distribution and pricing.

The IACT project is considering several other trade shows for its enterprises in key export markets this year. These include the Fine Food shows in New Zealand and Australia and the SIAL Food Fair in Paris, France.

The support provided for the four enterprises to exhibit at Trade Pasifika is part of an agreement that was signed last year to strengthen the existing partnership between SPC and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization, the parent body responsible for organizing Trade Pasifika. ***(SPC)***

Business

A recovering US is outpacing other major economies

WASHINGTON (AP)—As a brutal winter yields to spring, the U.S. economy is showing renewed strength just as other major economies appear desperate for help.

Europe is clinging to a fragile recovery. Japan just imposed a tax hike that threatens its shaky economic comeback. And China's troubles are rattling the global economy.

The resilience of the U.S. economy, after a growth-chilling winter, was evident in Friday's jobs report from the Labor Department. It said employers added 192,000 jobs in March and 37,000 more than in January and February than previously thought.

With the economy making steady gains, the Federal Reserve has been scaling back its bond purchases, which have been intended to lower interest rates to spur growth. "The U.S. is certainly doing better than Europe or Japan right now," says Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Here's a closer look at the rest of the world's big economies:

EUROPE

Just as the Fed reduces its stimulus in the United States, the European Central Bank is considering further steps to help the 18 countries that use the euro currency. The eurozone emerged from a recession—its second in six years—last spring. But the recovery has been faint: The eurozone economy is growing at a glacial 1 percent annual pace.

Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, last week expressed concern about "protracted stagnation" and the eurozone's worrisome 11.9 percent unemployment, essentially unchanged from last year's record 12.1 percent.

In addition, inflation is running at dangerously low levels. Consumer prices rose just 0.5 percent in the year that ended in March. The ultimate fear is of deflation, when prices actually start falling. Deflation would hurt growth because tumbling prices cause consumers and businesses to postpone purchases and investments as they wait for still-lower prices.

On Thursday, the ECB kept its main interest rate unchanged at the record low of 0.25 percent. But Draghi said the ECB was ready to use "unconventional measures" to combat super-low inflation. The bank could further lower rates, offer cheap loans to banks or embark on an uncharacteristic Fed-style stimulus.

The eurozone faces another more fundamental problem: a credit crunch. Banks, clogged with bad loans left from the financial crisis, aren't lending to small and mid-sized businesses. And they probably won't until they raise more money to cover potential loan losses.

"Europe is still in convalescence," says Gustavo Reis, global economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "The economy has been growing since the second quarter of last year. But they need to see significant credit growth."

Still, economists at Citi Research expect the eurozone economy to pick up somewhat this year, growing 1.3 percent after shrinking 0.4 percent in 2013.

JAPAN

Japan's economy, enduring a two-decade slump, received a jolt last year from "Abenomics." That's the name for policies pushed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to try to spur inflation and generate growth by getting consumers and businesses to spend now, not later.

But Japan's efforts to invigorate the economy through government spending have strained its finances. The government's debt is twice the size of Japan's economy—by far the highest debt burden of any advanced economy. To reduce the debt, the government has raised the country's sales tax from 5 percent to 8 percent.

The Japanese economy, No. 3 worldwide, looks weaker than it did last fall when Abe agreed to the tax hike. A quarterly survey last week showed that Japanese businesses fear that consumers will respond to the higher sales tax by pulling back on spending. That's what happened the last time Japan raised its sales tax in 1997. Citi forecasts that Japan's economy will grow just 0.9 percent this year, down from 1.5 percent in 2013.

Still, the government and the Bank of Japan may try to soften the blow. Abe has promised 5 trillion yen ($48 billion) in fresh stimulus for the economy - more if the tax hike inflicts more economic damage than the government expects. The Bank of Japan could also intervene with Fed-style bond purchases if the economy needs further help.

"BOJ will have to act," says William Lee, global economist at Citi Investment Research. "The question is when."

CHINA

China, the world's fastest-growing major economy, is slowing. Part of the deceleration from the sizzling double-digit increases of recent years is deliberate. Chinese policymakers want to create a sturdier economy, more dependent on consumer spending and less on exports and investments in infrastructure and real estate. And they're willing to accept slower growth to get there.

But now they fear that the economy is slowing too much and won't meet their 7.5 percent growth target. So Prime Minister Li Kequiang last week announced a mini-stimulus program: It will give small businesses bigger tax breaks, expand railroads and replace shantytowns with permanent housing.

But IHS' Behravesh says the stimulus will merely postpone a reckoning. China's investment boom, during which it built an overabundance of factories and houses, was financed with enormous debt, much of which is unlikely to be repaid. Over the next five years, Behravesh expects China's economic growth to slow significantly - to below 5 percent a year as the nation reforms its financial system.

A sputtering Chinese economy would hurt other countries that supply it with raw materials and do businesses with its companies.

"The Chinese story is one that's casting a big black cloud over the rest of Asia," Behravesh says.

Delta introduces sleep kits, adds new amenities

DELTA

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines introduced new sleep kits and several updated amenities for passengers seated in the Economy cabin on long-haul international flights. Sleep kits will be offered to each customer by flight attendants and will include individual eyeshades plus earplugs to help customers get better rest when traveling between continents.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines' new sleep kits are available for passengers in the Economy cabin on long-haul international flights.

In addition, on all trans-Atlantic flights of 3,850 miles or less from the U.S. to Europe, customers in the Economy cabin will receive a full-size bottle of water following meal service and updated snack offerings for morning and afternoon/evening arrivals. A mid-flight ice cream service will also be offered on these flights returning from Europe to the U.S. These service improvements will expand to longer-haul international flights in early summer.

This summer, customers flying in domestic First Class as well as the Economy cabin on domestic and international flights will be offered newly upgraded earbuds that will be theirs to keep for use with Delta's seatback entertainment systems. Delta is the only U.S. carrier to offer personal, on demand entertainment at every seat on all long-haul, international flights.

"Delta continues to focus on making travel better by introducing amenities that our customers find both helpful and comforting when they travel," said Joanne Smith, Delta's senior vice president—In-flight Service. "Adding new items in Economy on international flights improves the quality of the product and helps our customers arrive at their destination rested, entertained and refreshed."

Delta also unveiled its redesigned version of *SKY* magazine—the most read in-flight magazine in the world—that celebrates people and travel with the April 2014 issue. *SKY* is available onboard more than 5,000 daily Delta flights. The new *SKY* will be a leading premium travel magazine focused primarily on business travel and aligned to the interests of Delta's customers.

Today's announcement builds on Delta's industry leadership by investing billions of dollars in the customer experience including installation of full flatbed seats on Delta's widebody international aircraft that will be complete by summer 2014, new amenity kits which were introduced for BusinessElite customers in 2013, updating interiors with more baggage space and access to power throughout 225 domestic narrowbody aircraft through 2016, a new Terminal 4 at New York-JFK, and new Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal in Atlanta. ***(Delta Air Lines)***

Nigeria: Economy $510 billion, biggest in Africa

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's recalculated economy is worth $510 billion, by far the biggest in Africa, officials announced Sunday using long overdue revised data that gives the West African nation continental bragging rights but does little for the 70 percent of its citizens living in poverty.

The new value of Nigeria's GDP adds previously uncounted industries like telecommunications, information technology, music, airlines, burgeoning online retail outlets and Nollywood film production that didn't exist when the last GDP count was made in 1990. Then, there were 300,000 landlines. Today, Nigeria has 100 million cell phone users.

The new figures also will take account of growth in agriculture and tourism that have flourished since democracy was restored in 1999, ending decades of military dictatorship.

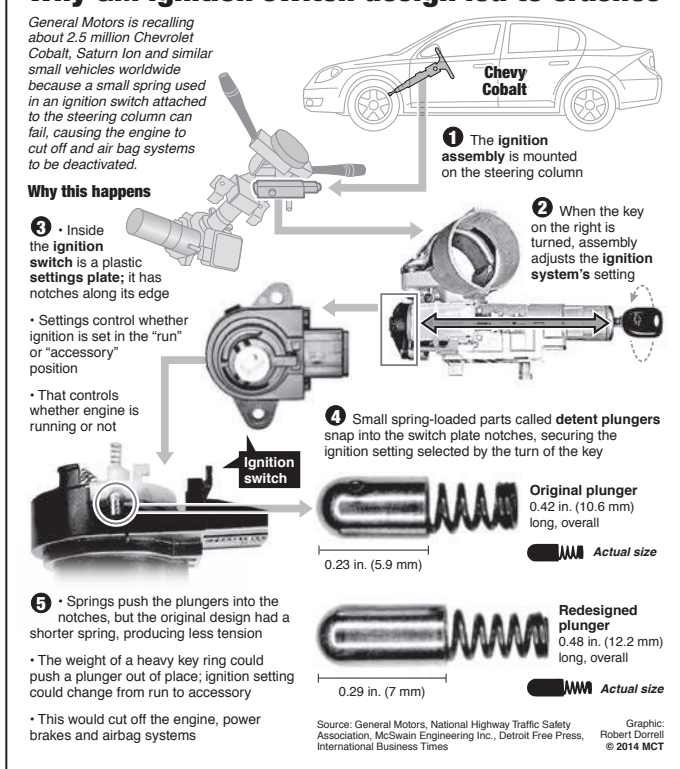
With one fell swoop, Nigeria knocked out of the ring South Africa, whose GDP of $353 billion was previously counted the biggest on the continent and which is the only African member of the G20.

"Nigeria's success is a reminder that Africa is moving ahead despite its current challenges," said investment manager Kevin Daly of UK-based Aberdeen Asset Management, which invests in Africa. He pointed out that it is a Nigerian, billionaire Aliko Dangote, who is building Africa's largest privately owned oil refinery.

Investors' attention will be drawn by the fact that while oil remains the biggest source of government revenue, about 80 percent, oil production is declining while Nigeria's agriculture, communications and service sectors are enjoying healthy growth.

Why GM ignition switch design led to crashes

General Motors is recalling about 2.5 million Chevrolet Cobalt, Saturn Ion and similar small vehicles worldwide because a small spring used in an ignition switch attached to the steering column can fail, causing the engine to cut off and air bag systems to be deactivated.


Chevy Cobalt
1 The ignition assembly is mounted on the steering column
2 When the key on the right is turned, assembly adjusts the ignition system's setting
Why this happens
3 • Inside the ignition switch is a plastic settings plate; it has notches along its edge
• Settings control whether ignition is set in the "run" or "accessory" position
• That controls whether engine is running or not
Ignition switch
4 Small spring-loaded parts called detent plungers snap into the switch plate notches, securing the ignition setting selected by the turn of the key
Original plunger
0.42 in. (10.6 mm) long, overall
0.23 in. (5.9 mm)
Actual size
5 • Springs push the plungers into the notches, but the original design had a shorter spring, producing less tension
• The weight of a heavy key ring could push a plunger out of place; ignition setting could change from run to accessory
• This would cut off the engine, power brakes and airbag systems
Redesigned plunger
0.48 in. (12.2 mm) long, overall
0.29 in. (7 mm)
Actual size

Source: General Motors, National Highway Traffic Safety Association, McSwain Engineering Inc., Detroit Free Press, International Business Times

Graphic: Robert Dorrell
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Angry families want GM prosecuted for defects

WASHINGTON (AP)—The families of those who died in General Motors cars with defective ignition switches want prosecutors to go after GM insiders responsible for letting the problems fester for more than a decade—and perhaps for covering them up.

"The only way the public is going to be protected from this negligence by companies is if there will ultimately be prison sentences," said Leo Ruddy of Scranton, Pa., whose 21-year-old daughter Kelly was killed in 2010 when her Chevrolet Cobalt veered inexplicably off the highway and crashed.

Family members attended hearings in Washington last week that stoked those sentiments. Lawmakers confronted GM CEO Mary Barra with what they said was evidence that, in 2006, a company employee intentionally tried to conceal the switch problem. And the head of the nation's auto safety watchdog said GM withheld critical information that connected the failing switch to air bags that didn't deploy in a crash.

"I don't see this as anything but criminal," said Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-New Hampshire, a former state prosecutor.

Nation

Near Fort Hood, church service honors fallen

KILLEEN, Texas (AP)—The church program pictured an empty road being enveloped by the dark clouds of a sweeping thunderstorm, and the service's lesson was from Isaiah 35:4, "Be strong, fear not." The preacher implored those gathered Sunday that they would find hope in God, but also acknowledged the question on everyone's mind: Why Fort Hood - again?

What would have been a routine Sunday service at Tabernacle Baptist Church just outside the sprawling Texas military base became a tribute to the soldiers killed four days earlier when a fellow service member opened fire. It also offered some catharsis for the community struggling to comprehend Fort Hood's second fatal shooting rampage in less than five years.

Similar somber religious gatherings were held throughout the military town of Killeen, but there were more questions than answers.

"A lot of us, I think this morning, are asking the question, `Why? Why would this happen? Why Fort Hood again? Why are these types of things allowed to happen?"" Pastor Robert Sperbeck told dozens gathered at Tabernacle, where 90 percent of the congregation is current or retired military personnel. "The devil is the author of what happened on Wednesday, but we do know the answer, we know there is hope."

Investigators say Spc. Ivan Lopez, an Army truck driver from Puerto Rico, had argued with soldiers in his unit moments before killing three people and wounding 16 others and then fatally shooting himself. Base officials have said Lopez, who saw no combat during a deployment to Iraq, was being treated for depression and anxiety while being assessed for post-traumatic stress disorder.

The shooting immediately revived memories of the November 2009 attack by Nidal Hassan, an Army psychiatrist who killed 13 and wounded more than 30 people at the base.

The White House said Sunday that President Barack Obama planned to attend an official memorial service Wednesday at Fort Hood. But in the surrounding town, the grieving has already begun. Residents have also held a march and a vigil, while Killeen's Central Christian Church erected a memorial with a trio of crosses honoring those killed and 16 flags for those wounded.

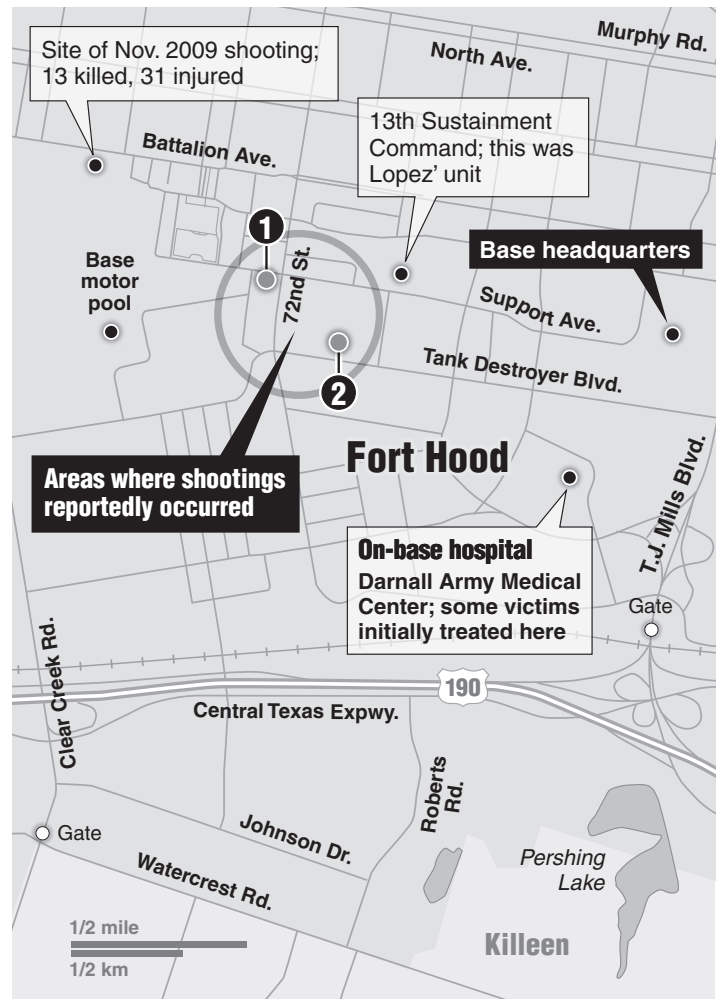
Sperbeck led the singing of "Amazing Grace," passed a collection plate for the shooting victims and read the names of the slain soldiers.

He said Sgt. Daniel Ferguson, a 39-year-old from Florida, "died a hero," noting that he was killed while holding a door shut to keep the shooter from entering a room and targeting more potential victims.

The pastor said that 38-year-old Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, was a 20-year Army veteran who was just seven months from retirement. And Sgt. Timothy Owens, 37, from Effingham, Ill., "had planned to make a career serving in the military."

Another multiple shooting at Fort Hood

Four and a half years after a mass shooting at Fort Hood claimed 13 lives and caused a detailed review of security procedures on the large Army base, another multiple shooting incident has occurred, leaving four dead (including the gunman, Spc. Ivan Lopez) and 16 injured.



Details provided by base commander, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley

1 4 p.m. local time Gunman enters building that houses 1st Medical Brigade, opens fire with .45 caliber handgun, leaves building, gets into vehicle and begins driving, fires from vehicle as he drives

2 Gunman arrives at buildings housing 49th Transportation Brigade, is approached by a military police officer who challenges him; he fatally shoots himself

The gunman

- **Spc. Ivan Lopez,** age 34, had served in Iraq in 2011 and was being evaluated for psychological issues
- Lopez arrived at Fort Hood in February

Source: AP, Waco Tribune, Dallas Morning News, NBC News, BBC, Fort Hood officials Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2014 MCT

Heroin addicts face barriers to treatment

NEW YORK (AP)—As the ranks of heroin users rise, increasing numbers of addicts are looking for help but are failing to find it—because there are no beds in packed facilities, treatment is hugely expensive and insurance companies won't pay for inpatient rehab.

Some users overcome their addictions in spite of the obstacles. But many, like Salvatore Marchese, struggle and fail.

In the course of Marchese's five-year battle with heroin, the Blackwood, N.J., man was repeatedly denied admission to treatment facilities, often because his insurance company wouldn't cover the cost. Then one night in June 2010, a strung-out Marchese went to the emergency room seeking help. The doctors shook their heads: Heroin withdrawal is not life-threatening, they said, and we can't admit you. They gave him an IV flush, and sent him home.

Marchese, then 26, and his sister called multiple inpatient clinics only to be told: We have no beds. Eventually, Marchese found space at a facility but was released 17 days later when his public funding ran out. Less than three months later, Marchese was found dead of an overdose in his mother's car.

"Heroin is life-threatening," said his mother, Patty DiRenzo. "We're losing kids every day from it."

Of the 23.1 million Americans who needed treatment for drugs or alcohol in 2012, only 2.5 million people received aid at a specialty facility, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Heroin addicts are a small slice of overall drug users, but their numbers nearly doubled from 2007 to 2012, to 669,000. The number treated for heroin also increased, from 277,000 to 450,000.

At issue is whether these addicts are getting the treatment they need to successfully beat their habits. Advocates say they are not, partly because the insurance industry has not come to grips with the dangers of heroin withdrawal and its aftermath.

It is true that, unlike withdrawal from dependencies on alcohol or benzodiazepines like Xanax, heroin withdrawal does not kill. But it is so horrible—users feel like their bones are breaking and fluids leak from every orifice - that many are drawn back to the drug, with fatal consequences.

Even if addicts survive withdrawal, they often relapse if they fail to make it into treatment. That's when many overdoses happen, because they try to use as much heroin as they did before, and their newly drug-free bodies can't handle it.

Gay men divided over use of HIV prevention drug

NEW YORK (AP)—It's the Truvada conundrum: A drug hailed as a lifesaver for many people infected by HIV is at the heart of a rancorous debate among gay men, AIDS activists and health professionals over its potential for protecting uninfected men who engage in gay sex without using condoms.

Many doctors and activists see immense promise for such preventive use of Truvada, and are campaigning hard to raise awareness of it as a crucial step toward reducing new HIV infections, which now total about 50,000 a year in the U.S. Recent efforts range from think-tank forums and informational websites to a festive event at a New York City bar featuring popular drag queens.

Yet others—despite mounting evidence of Truvada's effectiveness—say such efforts are reckless, tempting some condom users to abandon that layer of protection and exposing them to an array of other sexually transmitted infections aside from HIV.

"If something comes along that's better than condoms, I'm all for it, but Truvada is not that," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "Let's be honest: It's a party drug."

Even as gay-rights organizations celebrate collective progress in the fight to legalize same-sex marriage, the less-publicized Truvada debate has fueled bitter divisions within the gay community. Some who use the drug say they've felt shamed by some who don't, and there's now a lively backlash by users and their allies, including promotion of a "Truvada Whore" T-shirt.

"The discussion can torch emotions like a flame-thrower on a fuel depot," wrote Steve Ramos of the Dallas Voice as the gay-oriented publication reported on the debate in March.

Truvada, produced by California-based Gilead Sciences, has been around for a decade, serving as one of the key drugs used in combination with others as the basic treatment for people who have the AIDS-causing virus HIV. However, the drug took on a more contentious aspect in 2012 when the Food and Drug Administration approved it for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP—in other words, for use to prevent people from getting sexually transmitted HIV in the first place.

Mudslide survivors wonder: Why are we alive

SEATTLE (AP)—It was a sound like a jet engine. Then a forest of trees collapsed. And all was quiet except for the calls for help.

LoAnna Langton ran out of her house with her baby boy in her arms. Confused about what had just happened, she shouted for her children and their friends. She knew she needed to have her all her babies close at hand.

"Larry, Larry, did you see those trees? There's a hundred trees that just went down," she screamed to her neighbor, Larry Taylor, who opened his door and poked his head out.

About 150 feet away, the rest of their rural Washington neighborhood had disappeared in a massive tangle of mud and debris. The huge March 22 landslide in Oso killed more than two dozen people and left many others missing. It was one of the worst natural disasters in state history.

Taylor, Langton, her four children, her mother and her great aunt survived. And like others who are still alive - either by luck or circumstance - they are trying to make sense of the tragedy.

LoAnna Langton's husband, Kristopher Langton, also lived. When the slide struck, he had been on his way back home from an errand. After a few seconds of listening to his wife scream on the phone, he raced into the muck to try to reach his family.

"I was scared out of my mind," LoAnna Langton recalled days after the landslide. She was worried about her husband and about getting her children to safety.

Emergency workers tried to stop Kristopher Langton, but he pushed on through the mud and over trees and other debris. He helped pull three adults and a baby out of the debris. By the time he reached their house, it was surrounded by water and his family was safely away.

Hours later, LoAnna Langton turned to Taylor and asked, "How did we survive that?"

"I bless my house every day," Taylor said. The ordained minister was only half-joking.

The Langtons and their friend and neighbor, Taylor, are trying to rebuild their lives and find meaning in their survival.

LoAnna Langton says, "God protected us."

This was the second time her family had a close call with disaster. About a year and a half ago, when they lived in her hometown of Ellensburg, the 2012 wildfire known as the Taylor Bridge Fire skipped their house and destroyed 61 other homes and blackened 36 square miles around them.

Asia

Afghan election hailed as Taliban threat remains

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghans and the international community hailed its presidential election as a triumph of democracy over violence Sunday, despite complaints about ballot shortages and sporadic fraud after millions of people braved a Taliban threat to vote for a new president. But some cautioned against declaring a premature defeat of the Islamic militants.

Securing the vote was a test for Afghan government forces as they prepare to take full responsibility for their own security as the U.S. and allied forces end their combat mission at the end of this year. The consensus was that they largely passed, though there was sporadic violence.

A roadside bomb hit a pickup truck transporting ballot boxes Sunday in the northern province of Kunduz, killing three people, officials said. But the major attacks that had been feared did not materialize.

"This in itself is a victory over violence and a victory over all those who wanted to deter democracy by threats and violence," said Thijs Berman, the head of the European Union's election assessment team in Kabul.

Electoral officials, meanwhile, urged patience, saying officials continued to log complaints and tally ballots. The ballots were coming from more than 20,000 polling stations nationwide, some in extremely remote and rural areas. They were being transported to tally centers in all 34 provinces before the results reach Kabul.

Some candidate forecasts and partial results are expected in the coming days. Noor Mohammad Noor, a spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, said preliminary results were due April 24 and final results will be announced May 14.

With a crowded field of eight candidates, nobody was expected to get the majority needed to win outright. That would force a runoff between the top two vote-getters, which would be held at the end of May. President Hamid Karzai was constitutionally banned from seeking a third term.

Noor said initial reports show a turnout of more than 7 million people, nearly 60 percent of eligible voters. That was sharply up from the estimated 4.5 million people vote in 2009's presidential and provincial council elections, which were marred by widespread vote-rigging.

The Taliban had warned voters to stay home, saying election workers and polling centers were fair game. A spokesman for the group, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed in a statement Sunday that more than 1,000 attacks took place "to disrupt the fake and predetermined elections set up by America." The group often exaggerates its claims.

A number of high-profile attacks before Saturday, including two on offices of the Independent Election Commission and several targeting foreigners, heightened concern. Hundreds of thousands of Afghan security forces fanned out and erected checkpoints at intersections, searching cars and people. Workers also patted down voters, in some cases three times, before they entered polling stations.

Martine van Bijlert, co-director of an independent research group called the Afghanistan Analysts Network, said the days ahead would be key to determining if the Taliban failed to disrupt the vote or if they purposefully laid low on due to the heavy security measures.

"There's always the possibility that they decided to stage attacks before the elections, before the country went into maximum security mode, and after the elections," she said.

Brig. Gen. Daniel O'Donohue, the chief operations officer for NATO-led forces, said Afghan voters had done their job and called on candidates and other political players to foster stability.

"The enemy, after this defeat, will surely intensify its senseless violence and the prospect for peace is still precarious - but there is hope and that is everything," he said in an email.

After an aggressive campaign, three front-runners emerged: Abdullah Abdullah, who was Karzai's main rival in 2009; Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, a well-known academic and former World Bank official; and former Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul. They all expressed confidence after the vote that they would win, or at least advance to a second round, but all promised to respect official, "credible" results.

Rassoul, who critics alleged was Karzai's choice, denied he had any help from the government.

"If the election goes to the second round, we are ready to go to the second round, and if we go to the second round I am confident that we will win," he told reporters Sunday.

Fears of fraud, such as ballot box stuffing and government interference, were high after the last presidential election. This time, most of the candidates deployed thousands of observers to monitor polling centers.

Afghan presidential election

Afghans go to the polls April 5 to elect a new president as current President Hamid Karzai cannot stand for re-election due to term limits. Eight candidates are running, but only these three are expected to get a significant share of the vote. If none wins more than 50 percent, the top two finishers will face each other in a runoff May 28.

Top contenders

Abdullah Abdullah

- **Born** 1960, in Kabul, Afghanistan; of mixed Tajik and Pashtun heritage
- **Graduated** from Kabul Univ.; a doctor of ophthalmology, he treated patients in Kabul, then resistance fighters and refugees in Pakistan
- **Was adviser** and friend to Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shad Massoud, killed in 2001
- **Served** as foreign minister, 2001-2006; was Karzai's main challenger in 2009 and has been de facto leader of the opposition since then

Zalmai Rassoul

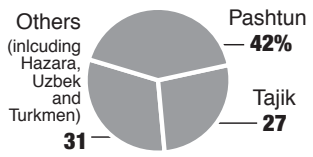
- **Born** 1943, in Kabul, Afghanistan; an ethnic Pashtun of royal lineage (King Amanullah Khan,1909-1929, was his uncle)
- **Medical degree** from Paris Medical School; has published in European and American medical journals; fluent in Pashto, Dari, French, English and Italian
- **Served** as national security advisor, accompanying Karzai on official visits since 2001, then as foreign minister, 2010-2013; viewed as

Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai

- **Born** 1949, in Logar Province, Afghanistan; an ethnic Pashtun from the influential Ahmadzai tribe
- **Degrees** from American Univ. in Beirut and Columbia Univ.; trained at Harvard and Stanford business schools
- **Taught** at Kabul Univ., Aarhus Univ., Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Johns Hopkins; worked at the World Bank, serving East Asia
- **Served** as finance minister, 2004-2006

Main ethnic groups

Significant factor in choosing a leader



Top issues

- **The single most important issue** is finalizing a security agreement with the U.S.; all other issues hinge on this
- **Other issues** include getting Taliban leaders to begin negotiating, fighting corruption and suppressing the drug trade

Election concerns

- **Two main monitoring groups** left the country after an attack
- **Many fear repeat of 2009;** Abdullah withdrew from runoff amid accusations of ballot stuffing; Karzai won by default

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Source: BBC, Afghan Biographies, NBC, Al Jazeera, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

Possible signals from lost jet's black boxes heard

PERTH, Australia (AP)—U.S. Navy equipment has picked up signals consistent with the pings from aircraft black boxes, an Australian search official said Monday, describing the discovery as "a most promising lead" in the month-long hunt for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane.

Angus Houston, the head of a joint agency coordinating the search in the southern Indian Ocean, called it "very encouraging" but warned it may take days to confirm whether signals picked up by the ship Ocean Shield are indeed from the flight recorders on Flight 370.

"Clearly this is a most promising lead, and probably in the search so far, it's the probably the best information that we have had," Houston said at a news conference.

The Australian navy's Ocean Shield, which is carrying high-tech sound detectors from the U.S. Navy, picked up two separate signals within a remote patch of the Indian Ocean far off the west Australian coast that search crews have been crisscrossing for weeks. The first signal lasted two hours and 20 minutes before it was lost. The ship then turned around and picked up a signal again—this time recording two distinct "pinger returns" that lasted 13 minutes, Houston said.

"Significantly, this would be consistent with transmissions from both the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder," Houston said.

He said the position of the noise needs to be further refined, and then an underwater autonomous vehicle can be sent in to investigate.

"It could take some days before the information is available to establish whether these detections can be confirmed as being from MH370," Houston said. "In very deep oceanic water, nothing happens fast."

After a month-long hunt for answers filled with dead ends, Monday's news brought fresh hope. The two black boxes, which contain flight data and cockpit voice recordings, are the key to unraveling exactly what happened to Flight 370 and why.

But there is little time left to find the devices, which contain critical flight data and cockpit voice recordings that could help investigators unravel exactly what happened on board Flight 370. The devices have beacons that emit "pings" so they can be more easily found, but the beacons' batteries last only about a month. Tuesday marks exactly one month since the plane disappeared.

Hagel to tour China's new aircraft carrier

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is expected to get a rare tour Monday of China's first aircraft carrier, becoming the first foreign visitor to go aboard the ship.

A senior defense official said Hagel requested the visit, which comes a day after he told reporters that China must better respect its neighbors - a pointed allusion to Beijing's ongoing territorial dispute with Japan and others over remote islands in the East China Sea. He also has continued to urge Beijing to be more transparent about its expanding military.

China spent a decade refurbishing the derelict Soviet-era carrier bought from Ukraine before commissioning it as the Liaoning in 2012. It moved to Qingdao in February 2013 and is part of a major expansion of the Chinese navy that includes sophisticated new surface ships and submarines.

Early this year the Liaoning completed sea trials in the South China Sea. The official Xinhua News Agency said the carrier tested its combat system, conducted a formation practice and "attained the anticipated objectives."

On Dec. 5, early in the Liaoning's trial run, one of the Chinese ships accompanying it was involved in a near collision with a U.S. Navy cruiser, the USS Cowpens, when it was operating in international waters in the South China Sea. U.S. Navy officials said the Cowpens maneuvered to avoid the collision, but it marked the two nations' most serious sea confrontation in years.

At the time, a Chinese media report said the U.S. ship got too close to the Liaoning.

ASIA BRIEFS

India kicks off world's largest election

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Indians began voting Monday in the world's biggest election, with the opposition heading into the polls with strong momentum on promises of economic renewal. Voting began Monday morning in the remote northeastern states of Assam and Tripura, with many traveling along highways, dirt tracks and rickety bamboo bridges to cast their ballots. The country's 814 million eligible voters will vote in stages over the next five weeks—a staggered approach made necessary by India's vast size. Results are due May 16.

Explosions in southern Thailand kill 1, wound 24

BANGKOK (AP)—Suspected Muslim insurgents in southern Thailand launched a wave of attacks Sunday that killed one person and wounded 24 others. The violence took place in the city of Yala, where at least four explosions were reported, said police Col. Prayong Khotsakha. The most serious of the assaults was a car bomb that detonated in front a furniture store, triggering a blaze that burned nearby homes and caused numerous casualties, he said. Other explosions were reported in the city. One bomb was hidden on a motorcycle, and another blew up an ATM.

Italian diplomat arrested for child trafficking

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say they have filed a complaint for child trafficking against a vacationing Italian diplomat arrested at a resort south of Manila in the company of three street boys aged 9 to 12. Senior Supt. Romulo Sapitula said Monday that police arrested Daniele Bosio on Saturday at a resort in Laguna province, where members of the child rights group Bahay Tuluyan were also on an outing, became suspicious and alerted authorities. The 46-year-old Italian is a diplomat in Turkmenistan and was on a holiday in the Philippines. The Italian Embassy did not immediately comment.

World

Pro-Russians storm Ukraine government buildings

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Crowds of pro-Russian demonstrators stormed government buildings Sunday in several major cities in eastern Ukraine, where secessionist sentiment has sparked frequent protests since Ukraine's Russia-friendly president was ousted in February.

In Donetsk, 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of the Russian border, a large group of people, including many in masks carrying sticks and stones, surged into the provincial government building and smashed windows.

A gathering of several hundred, many of them waving Russian flags, then listened to speeches delivered from a balcony emblazoned with a banner reading "Donetsk Republic." Activists in the building said they want to see a referendum for the Donetsk province to join Russia.

An AP photographer reported seeing people bringing car tires to be used as barricades against any presumed attempt by authorities to retake the building.

Eastern Ukraine was the heartland of support for Viktor Yanukovych, the president who fled to Russia in February after months of protests. About half of the region's residents are ethnic Russians, many of whom believe Ukraine's acting authorities are Ukrainian nationalists who will oppress Russians.

AP

Pro-Russian masked activist waves a Russian national flag in front of the regional administration building in Donetsk, Ukraine, Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Ukraine's interim authorities deny they are infringing the rights of the ethnic Russian population and accuse Moscow of trying to sow instability. Russia has moved large contingents of troops to areas near the Ukrainian border, and speculation is strong that unrest in eastern Ukraine could be used as a pretext for a Russian incursion.

Since Crimea held a referendum to secede and then was annexed by Russia in March, calls for similar referenda in Ukraine's east have emerged.

President Oleksandr Turchinov's office said in a statement he had canceled a planned visit to Lithuania this week to take personal charge over the situation in eastern Ukraine.

In Luhansk, to the northeast from Donetsk, hundreds of people surrounded the local headquarters of the security service and later scaled the facade to plant a Russian flag on the roof. Ukrainian media reported that demonstrators pelted the building with eggs, and then stones, a smoke grenade and finally a firebomb. The flames were reportedly quickly extinguished.

A police officer and a demonstrator were injured in the disturbances.

Local media reported similar unrest in Kharkiv, less than an hour's drive from the Russian border.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote on his Facebook account that Russia was to blame for the turbulence.

Russian President Vladimir "Putin and Yanukovych have ordered and financed another round of separatist unrest in the east," he said. "Not many people have gathered, but they are behaving aggressively. In Donetsk, the crowd brought many children and women for the storming. They are provoking a spillover into blood."

Avakov said no heavy-handed measures would be adopted to deal with the unrest.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hezbollah: Danger to Syria's president eliminated

BEIRUT (AP)—The government of Syrian President Bashar Assad is no longer in danger of falling, the leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said in an interview with a Lebanese newspaper. In an interview with daily newspaper As-Safir, Hassan Nasrallah also said the threat of bombings in Lebanon "has dropped considerably" because of the "measures adopted along the Lebanese-Syrian border." Hezbollah militants have been fighting alongside Syrian government troops against the rebels trying to oust Assad from power. The Shiite group's fighters were instrumental in helping Assad's forces dislodge opposition fighters from their strongholds along the countries' border.

Hungary prime minister wins 3rd term

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Fidesz party won parliamentary elections Sunday and narrowly secured a new two-thirds majority, but gains by a far-right party were a cause for concern. With over 98 percent of the votes counted, the National Election Office said Fidesz had won 133 seats in the 199-seat legislature. Fidesz, a right-wing populist party, and its small ally, the Christian Democrats, received 44.5 percent of the list votes, good for 37 seats, and also won 96 of the 106 individual constituencies. "Every doubt and uncertainty has dissipated. We have won," Orban told cheering supporters gathered near the Danube River after securing a third term. "Hungary again is a place where it is worth living, working and starting a family. We have declared that we are not turning back."

14 die as criminals clash in Mexico border state

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Tamaulipas authorities say a series of clashes among criminals has left 14 dead in the northeastern Mexico state bordering Texas. The state's coordinating group of state and federal law enforcement says the confrontations occurred throughout the day Sunday in Madero and Tampico. The statement late Sunday did not name the criminal groups or say if the attacks were related. Tamaulipas, one of Mexico's most violent states, has been hit by infighting in the once dominant Gulf Cartel, which has also come under attack from its rival, the Zetas.

UN alarmed by deadly Syrian protest in Jordan camp

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—The United Nations said Sunday it is alarmed at the "violent nature" of a demonstration in a massive Syrian refugee camp in Jordan that killed one person and wounded dozens.

Saturday's deadly protest in the sprawling Zaatari camp reverberated around the region as international aid agencies and host governments struggle to cope and manage millions of Syrians who have fled the 3-year-old conflict and sought shelter in neighboring Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

In a statement, the U.N. refugee agency said a "heated demonstration" in Zaatari turned to "a violent one" after possibly thousands of refugees started throwing rocks at a police post inside the camp. The protest started over a refugee family being held there after police detained them and a driver who tried to smuggle them out, the UNHCR said.

Police fired tear gas and there were reports of live ammunition being used, the statement said. Three Syrian refugees were sent to hospital with gunshot wounds and one has since died, the UNHCR said. The statement said 28 policemen were wounded in the protest. Nine tents and five mobile homes were burnt, the agency said.

"Tremendous efforts have been made over the past months to create an atmosphere of civility in the camp," the UNHCR said, appealing to the Syrian refugee to "respect Jordanian law."

Earlier, Jordanian police said in a statement that its troops used tear gas to break up crowds who attacked the police station and set fire to tents. Thousands of refugees fled the east side of the camp where the riots broke out, the statement said, adding that 29 policemen were injured.

Brig. Gen. Waddah Hmoud, director of Jordan's Syrian refugee camps affairs department, said a 25-year-old Syrian was killed in the violence and at least two other refugees were wounded.

Jordan is home to 588,979 registered Syrians refugees, and the numbers grow daily.

Most of the Syrians are staying in two organized encampments near the northern border with Syria. With a population exceeding 120,000, Zaatari is the biggest camp. The refugees are under direct care of the United Nations and the Jordanian government. There are an undetermined number of unregistered refugees in Jordan, including many who have moved into the country's towns and cities.

Ex-Palestinian prisoner teaches Hebrew, tolerance

DEIR JARIR, West Bank (AP)—Facing a classroom of Palestinian 10th graders, Hebrew teacher Esmat Mansour asks his students who is for and against learning the language. A few raise their hands in favor, others against and he asks both sides to explain.

Mansour believes such debates will help motivate young Palestinians to study Israel's dominant language. They need to know Hebrew to be able to deal with the Israeli occupiers, but also to build bridges in the future, he says.

The 37-year-old's view of the conflict with Israel is the product of a violent past, as he at 16 helped three older teens stab to death an Israeli man in 1993. Mansour was sentenced to 22 years as an accomplice in the killing of 30-year-old Haim Mizrahi, and was granted early release last year, along with dozens of other long-held prisoners, in a deal brokered by the United States.

Now free, Mansour's new life comes as Mideast peace talks falter. Mansour said he has no regrets, but also that he would never take another life.

"The most important thing is to ... value all human life and to learn tolerance," he said. Then, "we were very young, the political situation was different, we were very much zealots."

To many Israelis, such words ring hollow. They view Mansour and other Palestinians who killed Israelis in politically motivated attacks as terrorists who should remain behind bars.

Mizrahi's brother Itzik, 32, said the released prisoners are able to rebuild their lives, while the families of their victims suffer. "We remain without my brother," he said. "Only we have missed out, only my brother has missed out." Mizrahi's wife was pregnant at the time, and his daughter Tehila is now 20.

Palestinians say such killings came in the context of a decades-old conflict, and that a refusal to release Palestinian prisoners raises doubts about Israel's willingness to move toward peace.

Focus

By JASON STRAZIUSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RWANDA GENOCIDE:
Man and victim now friends

NYAMATA, Rwanda (AP)—She lost her baby daughter and her right hand to a manic killing spree. He wielded the machete that took both.

Yet today, despite coming from opposite sides of an unspeakable shared past, Alice Mukarurinda and Emmanuel Ndayisaba are friends. She is the treasurer and he the vice president of a group that builds simple brick houses for genocide survivors. They live near each other and shop at the same market.

Their story of ethnic violence, extreme guilt and, to some degree, reconciliation is the story of Rwanda today, 20 years after its Hutu majority killed more than 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The Rwandan government is still accused by human rights groups of holding an iron grip on power, stifling dissent and killing political opponents. But even critics give President Paul Kagame credit for leading the country toward a peace that seemed all but impossible two decades ago.

"Whenever I look at my arm I remember what happened," said Alice, a mother of five with a deep scar on her left temple where Emanuel sliced her with a machete. As she speaks, Emmanuel - the man who killed her baby - sits close enough that his left hand and her right stump sometimes touch.

On Monday, Rwanda marks the 20th anniversary of the beginning of 100 days of bloody mayhem. But the genocide was really in the making for decades, fueled by hate speech, discrimination, propaganda and the training of death squads. Hutus had come to resent Tutsis for their greater wealth and what they saw as oppressive rule.

Rwanda is the most densely populated country in mainland Africa, slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Maryland but with a population of more than 12 million. The countryside is lush green, filled with uncountable numbers of banana trees.

The Hutu-Tutsi divide may be the country's most notorious characteristic but also its most confounding. The two groups are so closely related that it's nearly impossible for an outsider to tell which the average Rwandan belongs to. Even Rwandans have trouble knowing who is who, especially after two decades of a government push to create a single Rwandan identity.

AP

In this photo taken Wednesday, March 26, 2014, Emmanuel Ndayisaba, right, and Alice Mukarurinda, pose for a photograph outside Alice's house in Nyamata, Rwanda.

AP

The skulls and bones of some of those who were slaughtered as they sought refuge inside the church, are laid out on shelves in an underground vault as a memorial to the thousands who were killed in and around the Catholic church during the 1994 genocide in Nyamata, Rwanda, Friday, April 4, 2014.

For Alice, a Tutsi, the genocide began in 1992, when her family took refuge in a church for a week. Hutu community leaders began importing machetes. Houses were burned, cars taken.

Hutu leaders created lists of prominent or educated Tutsis targeted for killing. They also held meetings where they told those in attendance how evil the Tutsis were. Like many of his Hutu neighbors, Emmanuel soaked in the message.

The situation caught fire on April 6, 1994, when the plane carrying Rwanda's president was shot down. Hutus started killing Tutsis, who ran for their lives and flooded Alice's village.

Three days later, local Hutu leaders told Emmanuel, then 23, that they had a job for him.

They took him to a Tutsi home and ordered him to use his machete. A Christian who sang in his church choir, Emmanuel had never killed before. But inside this house he murdered 14 people. The next day, April 12, Emmanuel found a Tutsi doctor in hiding and killed him, too. The day after, he killed two women and a child.

"The very first family I killed, I felt bad, but then I got used to it," he says. "Given how we were told that the Tutsis were evil, after the first family I just felt like I was killing our enemies."

In the meantime, Alice's family took refuge in a church, just as they had done before, crammed in with hundreds of others. But this time, Hutu attackers threw a bomb inside and set the church on fire. Those who fled the fire inside died by machetes outside. Alice lost some 26 family members, among the estimated 5,000 victims at the church.

Alice, then 25, escaped with her 9-month-old daughter and a 9-year-old niece into Rwanda's green countryside, moving, hiding, moving. She hid in a forested swamp.

"There were so many bodies all over the place," she says. "Hutus would wake up in the morning and go hunting for Tutsis to kill."

By late April rebel Tutsi fighters led by Kagame had reached the capital and chased Hutus out. Hutu troops began to flee to neighboring countries, and the violence spread, with killings carried out by both sides.

On April 29, Emmanuel joined Hutu soldiers searching the countryside for Tutsis. The attackers blew a whistle whenever they found a Tutsi hiding.

The murders began at 10 a.m. and lasted until 3 p.m. Alice had been hiding in a swamp for days, keeping out only the top of her face so she could breathe. That was where the Hutus found her.

They surrounded the swamp. Then they attacked.

First they killed the girls. When that was done, they came after Alice. She was sure she would die, but instinctively put up her arm to defend herself.

Emmanuel, Alice's school mate, recognized the woman but couldn't recall her name. Perhaps that made it easier to rain down machete blows on Alice's right arm, severing it just above the wrist. He sliced her face. His colleague pierced a spear through her left shoulder.

They left her for dead.

She was bloodied, scarred, and missing a hand, yes, but not dead. Alice fell unconscious, she says, and was found three days later by other survivors. It was only then that she realized she no longer had a right hand.

In the months after the genocide, guilt gnawed away at Emmanuel. He saw his victims during nightmares. In 1996, he turned himself in and confessed.

His prison term lasted from 1997 until 2003, when Kagame pardoned Hutus who admitted their guilt. After he was freed, he began asking family members of his victims for forgiveness. He joined a group of genocide killers and survivors called Ukurrkuganze, who still meet weekly.

It was there that he saw Alice, the woman he thought he had killed.

At first he avoided her. Eventually he kneeled before her and asked for forgiveness. After two weeks of thought and long discussions with her husband, she said yes.

"We had attended workshops and trainings and our hearts were kind of free, and I found it easy to forgive," she says. "The Bible says you should forgive and you will also be forgiven."

Josephine Munyeli is the director of peace and reconciliation programs in Rwanda for World Vision, a U.S.-based aid group. A survivor of the genocide herself, Munyeli says more killers and victims would like to reconcile but many don't know who they attacked or were attacked by.

"Forgiveness is possible. It's common here," she says. "Guilt is heavy. When one realizes how heavy it is the first thing they do to recuperate themselves is apologize."

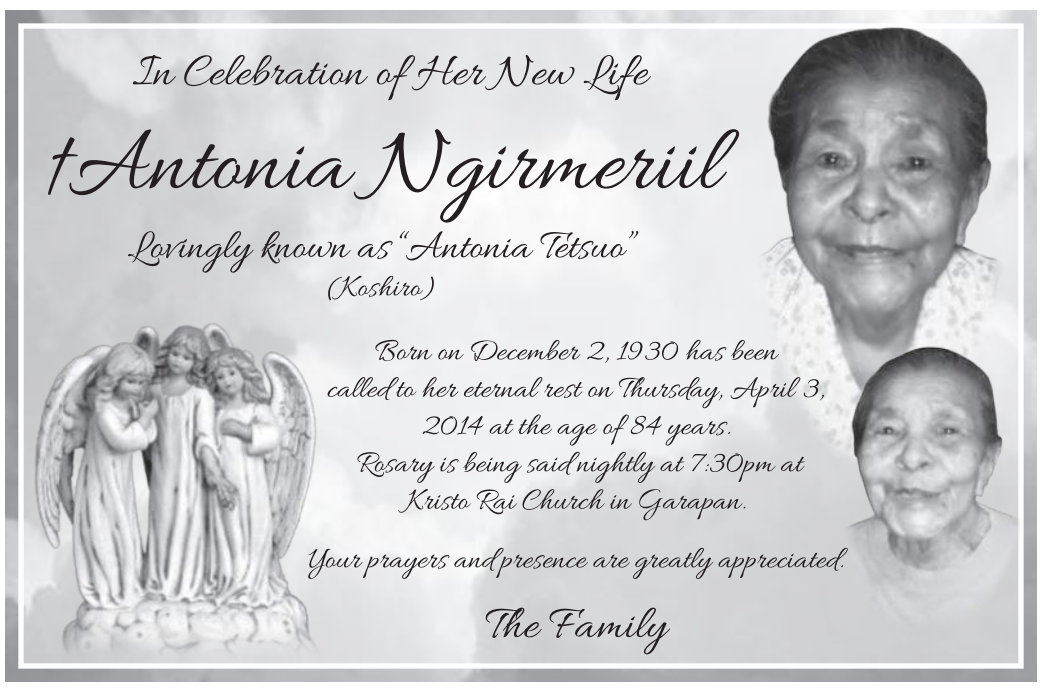
Although Rwanda has made significant progress since the genocide, ethnic tensions remain. Alice worries that some genocide planners were never caught, and that messages denying the genocide still filter into the country from Hutus living abroad. She believes remembrance is important to ensure that another genocide never happens.

For Emmanuel, the anniversary periods bring back the nightmares. He looks like a man serving penance, who does not want to talk but feels he must.

"I've been asking myself why I acted like a fool, listening to such words, that this person is bad and that person is bad," Emmanuel says. "The same people that encouraged the genocide are the ones saying there was no genocide."

He, too, worries that the embers of the genocide still smolder.

"The problem is still there," Emmanuel says. "There are Hutus who hate me for telling the truth. There are those up until now who participated in the genocide who deny they took part."


In Celebration of Her New Life
†Antonia Ngirmeriil
Lovingly known as "Antonia Tetsuo"
(Koshiro)
Born on December 2, 1930 has been called to her eternal rest on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at the age of 84 years.
Rosary is being said nightly at 7:30pm at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.
Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
The Family

Overdrive

Ford Fiesta's tiny engine is no shrinking violet

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Ford is getting a lot of mileage out of its Fiesta. For the past year, the Detroit automaker has been rolling out the 2014 update of its popular subcompact in dribs and drabs: starting with its 38 mpg S last summer, followed by its street-legal rallycrosser—the 35 mpg ST, last fall—and, most recently, a 45 mpg 1-liter SFE that's been on sale since December but was only made available to the media in March.

To put the 1-liter in context, it is so compact that a Ford engineer packed the engine block in a carry-on suitcase and took it through TSA security without a hitch.

One liter is a displacement more commonly found in motorcycles. And, as motorcycle engines go these days, it's actually fairly small. Harley-Davidson's stock motor is a 1.6-liter. Triumph makes a bike with a gargantuan 2.3.

But the Fiesta 1-liter is the mule for an entire car—one that not only carries two more wheels and an entire steel cage, but five passengers, plus groceries, while remaining the most fuel-efficient, nonhybrid vehicle on the road.

I wasn't sure what to expect when I showed up at Ford's West Coast headquarters in Irvine, Calif., on a recent Wednesday for a morning's spin in the automaker's smallest car powered with its smallest engine. At best, I anticipated the driving equivalent of lukewarm coffee—at worst, something as limp and underpowered as the Nissan Versa Note.

So I was pretty surprised when I strapped in, threw the car in gear and it took off with verve. The thing has spunk, but there's a caveat. Part of that spunk is attributable to the 1 liter's manual transmission, which improves its acceleration and overall fun factor. The 1-liter Fiesta is not available as an automatic in the U.S.

The manual on the Fiesta is a tall-geared five-speed, the shift quality of which is quite smooth. The clutch pedal is pliable, and the stick shift easily slides into gear.

Consumer Reports reported last month that manual transmissions can improve gas mileage by 2 to 5 mpg. The magazine also reported that manual transmissions often cut a car's sticker price by $800 to $1,200—a situation that does not apply to the 1-liter Fiesta. It actually comes with a price premium, adding $995 to the $14,100 base-model price.

Despite being offered only with a manual transmission that many American's don't even know how to operate, the 1-liter, since quietly going on sale in December, now accounts for one-third of all Fiesta sales in California, the No. 1 market for small cars in the country.

Small cars being the largest market segment in the auto industry overall, Ford is pursuing it with a laser-like focus. Its growth rate in small cars is double that of its competitors, due in part to an ultralow starting price for its base-model Fiesta. The price can remain low because the engine doesn't add cost-inflating technologies such as electric motors and lithium-ion batteries to help improve fuel economy, which is the most important factor in consumers' small car purchase decisions.

Ford offers a plug-in hybrid (C-Max), as well as an all-electric (Focus), but that's dabbling. Almost all of the automaker's energy is channeled into eking as much efficiency out of gas-powered engines as possible. And it's doing that with EcoBoost powertrains like the 1 liter—small-displacement engines that are both turbocharged and direct-injected for improved mpgs.

Ford uses its more powerful 1.6-liter, 4-cylinder EcoBoost engine in the peppy, 197-horsepower Fiesta ST. It will use 2.7- and 3.5-liter EcoBoost engines in its highly anticipated aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup truck this fall. Before the year is out, Ford says 80 percent of all vehicles it sells globally will be available with EcoBoost engines.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Ford Fiesta 1-Liter Ecoboost

- Powertrain: Turbocharged, direct-injected, 1-liter, three-cylinder, 4 valves per cylinder, DOHC, variable valve timing, 5-speed manual transmission
- Horsepower: 123 at 6,000 rpm
- Torque: 125 at 2,500 rpm
- Wheelbase: 98 inches
- Overall length: 159.7 inches
- Curb weight: 2,552 pounds
- EPA-estimated fuel economy: 32 mpg city, 45 mpg highway, 37 mpg combined
- Road test fuel economy (based on 32 miles of driving at 53 mph average speed): 31.1 mpg
- Base price: $15,095

FORD/MCT

The 2014 Ford Fiesta SFE comes with a 1-liter engine that's so compact, a Ford engineer packed the engine block in a carry-on suitcase and took it through TSA security.

Death And Funeral Announcement

†Antonia Lizama Masga Tudela

Born: June 21, 1937 *Died: April 04, 2014*

Predeceased By:
Husband: Juan Borja Tudela

Parents:
† Rosa Lizama Masga-Taisacan
† Gabriel Manglona Masga
† Jose Atalig Taisacan

Parents In Law:
† Jesus Sablan Tudela
† Anuncia Borja Tudela

Paternal Grandparents:
† Antonia Manglona Masga
† Vicente Hocog Masga

Paternal In-law Grandparents:
† Francisco Ramirez Tudela
† Ana Sablan Tudela

Maternal Grandparents:
† Juan Palomo Lizama
† Emilia Crisostomo Lizama

Maternal In-law Grandparents:
† Manuel Mendiola Borja
† Ignacia Diaz Borja

Her Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of Her:

Children, Sons/Daughters In-law, Grand Children, and Great Grand Children:

Piding T. And Manuel C. Tenorio (Derol Jason M. and Sandra H. Tudela (Jason Peter Iglecias), Jonathan Michael, Jemalyn Michelle, Antonette T. and Lucas Laniyo (Daughter), † Manuel Jr. Q. Tenorio)
Dr. **Ignacia (Acha) T.** and Antonio S. Demapan (Anthony John T. Demapan and Lani Benavente (Ciana Lei), Brandon T. and Vicky T. Demapan (Ayvah Victoria, Brianna Hope, CJ, Terrance), and Daisylynn T. Demapan)
Rosa (Chai) M. Tudela and Johnny S. Aldan (Billy Joe, Mayleen Rose, Johnny, Richard Joseph, Julie and Ton Atalig (Johnson, Patsy, Cj, Jocelyn, Celina, and Morris), Mason and Jordie Aldan (Pilar, Max, Rekihna, And Mason Jr.)
Cecilia T. and James S. Labausa (John James, Antonette Rose Marie, and Ruby Cornelia)
Jane Frances M. Tudela
Eleanor Antonia T. and Jose C. Tenorio (Viron Joel)
Elizabeth M. Tudela
Dr. John Gabriel Jr. M. Tudela
Jesus (Jesse) Vincent M. And Jocelyn M. Tudela (Annabella Jelyn)

Caregivers:
Gloria Lina and Slyvia Escareces

Brothers And Sisters And In- Laws:
† **Juan L. Masga**
† **Vicenta L. Masga**
† **Gabriel L. Masga**
Antonio L. and Connie N. Taisacan and Children
Emilia T. and Jose S. Rios and Children
Pudentiana T. and Joaquin S. Quitugua and Children
Ricardo L. and Cynthia C. Taisacan and Children
† **Victor L. Taisacan**

Brothers/Sisters In-law:
† **Francisco B.** and † Ana Dlg. Tudela and Children
† **Juliana T.** and † Jose Q. Lizama and Children
† **Magdalena T.** and † Vicente C. Salas and Children
† **Raimunda T.** and † Francisco C. Palacios and Children
† **Rufina T.** and † Vic Queribin and Children
† **Sabina T.** and † John C. Pangelinan and Children
Sr. Cecilia B. Tudela, MMB
† **Rufino B.** and Consolacion F. Tudela and Children

Reared Brother In-law:
Leo B. and Leimomi M. Tudela and Children

Daily Mass is at San Jose Church on the following dates and time:

- Friday, April 04, 2014, 6:00p.m.
- Saturday, April 05, 2014, 6:00p.m.
- Sunday, April 06, 2014, 9:00a.m.
- Monday, April 07, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Tuesday, April 08, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Wednesday, April 09, 2014, 6:00p.m.
- Thursday, April 10, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Friday, April 11, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Sunday, April13, 2014 , 9:00a.m.
- Monday, April 14, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 6:00p.m.
- Thursday, April 17, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Friday, April 18, 2014, 6:00a.m.
- Saturday, April 19, 2014, 6:00p.m.
- Sunday, April 20, 2104, 9:00a.m.
- Monday, April 21, 2014, 6:00a.m.

The Holy Rosary Is Being Said At The Family's Residence In Garapan At 7:30p.m.

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, her body will be escorted at 7:30a.m. from Borja Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso will be at 7:45a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary and viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00a.m. Interment service will be at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase-Thank You
From Her Children and Family

Life & Style

Strait wins entertainer of the year at ACM Awards

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

George Strait won his second entertainer of the year—25 years after he won his first—and Miranda Lambert and Keith Urban teamed up to earn top honors Sunday night at a jam-packed Academy of Country Music Awards that had a little something for everyone.

Strait's victory was not unexpected. The 61-year-old is a few months from retiring from the road and won the same trophy at the rival Country Music Association Awards five months ago. But the ACMs entertainer award is fan-voted and some wondered if Strait's older fan base might vote.

"I've always said I have the best fans in the world," Strait told the crowd. "I heard this was a fan-voted thing, so I rest my case."

No one will begrudge Strait the win, including co-hosts Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan, who were also nominated in the category with Lambert and Taylor Swift.

"Our hero," Shelton said in a genuine moment. "Our hero won tonight!"

Until that point Bryan and Shelton had overshadowed much of the ceremony, held in Las Vegas. Urban and Lambert tied for the most trophies but it was Lambert's husband, Shelton, and Bryan who were on a winning streak.

They deftly stole the show with a mix of self-deprecating, celebrity-skewering jokes and two performances apiece. And as Shelton noted, he also gets to share Lambert's bed.

"Honestly, I think we're the biggest celebrities in the room," Shelton said during the show's funniest moment - a recreation of Ellen DeGeneres' selfie moment at the Oscars - and it may just be true.

AP

George Strait performs on stage at the 49th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Shelton is the star of "The Voice" and a platinum-selling hitmaker with 11 straight No. 1s. Bryan was the reigning entertainer of the year, and both were up for that award again this year with Lambert, Taylor Swift and George Strait, the genre's top stars.

They zinged Eric Church over the likelihood of finding marijuana in his dressing room, poked fun at Britney Spears (who performs on the Las Vegas strip) and ribbed Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, in the audience, about his team's disappointing playoff record (Shelton and Bryan announced the 50th edition of the ACM Awards will be held at the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium next year).

Each performed twice with Shelton offering a subdued but powerful version of his song "My Eyes," playing an acoustic guitar while seated with Gwen Sebastian at his side, before returning flanked by Shakira on their duet "Medicine." Bryan performed "Play It Again" while standing on a revolving replica of a vinyl album, then teamed with vocal duo of the year winner Florida Georgia Line on "This is How We Roll."

Lambert did her best to upstage her husband, who gave her a peck on the forehead after she won single record of the year for "Mama's Broken Heart," co-written by Kacey Musgraves. Lambert also won her fifth straight female vocalist of the year award.

"I was just hanging out with (presenter) Trisha Yearwood back there, holy crap, and I was standing next to Sheryl Crow, a complete and utter rock star," Lambert said of Crow, a fellow nominee. She also spoke about others in the category: "Kacey Musgraves, I grew up with her. She wrote the single of the year this year. And Carrie Underwood's my buddy, y'all, and she's a phenomenon. I can't believe it, I'm so grateful and humbled. I love my job."

Lambert teamed with Urban to win vocal event of the year for their "We Were Us" collaboration, for which Urban won trophies as producer and performer. Urban won video of the year with Tim McGraw and Taylor Swift for "Highway Don't Care." The three wins Sunday night gave Lambert 18 trophies at the ACM Awards since she first won best new female artist in 2006.

Police: Legendary star Mickey Rooney dies at 93

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mickey Rooney, the pint-size, precocious actor and all-around talent whose more than 80-year career spanned silent comedies, Shakespeare, Judy Garland musicals, Andy Hardy stardom, television and the Broadway theater, died Sunday at age 93.

Los Angeles Police Commander Andrew Smith said that Rooney was with his family when he died at his North Hollywood home.

Smith said police took a death report but indicated that there was nothing suspicious and it was not a police case. He said he had no additional details on the circumstances of his passing.

Rooney started his career in his parents' vaudeville act while still a toddler, and broke into movies before age 10. He was still racking up film and TV credits more than 80 years later—a tenure likely unmatched in the history of show business.

"I always say, 'Don't retire—inspire,'" he told The Associated Press in March 2008. "There's a lot to be done."

Among his roles in recent years was a part as a guard in the smash 2006 comedy "A Night at the Museum."

Rooney won two special Academy Awards for his film achievements, and reigned from 1939 to 1942 as the No. 1 moneymaking star in movies, his run only broken when he joined the Army. At his peak, he was the incarnation of the show biz lifer, a shameless ham and hoofer whom one could imagine singing, dancing and wisecracking in his crib, his blond hair, big grin and constant motion a draw for millions. He later won an Emmy and was nominated for a Tony.

"Mickey Rooney, to me, is the closest thing to a genius I ever worked with," Clarence Brown, who directed his Oscar-nominated performance in "The Human Comedy," once said.

Rooney's personal life matched his film roles for color. His first wife was the glamorous—and taller—Ava Gardner, and he married seven more times, fathering seven sons and four daughters.

Rooney

Through divorces, money problems and career droughts, he kept returning with customary vigor.

"I've been coming back like a rubber ball for years," he commented in 1979, the year he returned with a character role in "The Black Stallion," drawing an Oscar nomination as supporting actor, one of four nominations he earned over the years.

That same year he starred with Ann Miller in a revue called "Sugar Babies," a hokey mixture of vaudeville and burlesque. It opened in New York in October 1979, and immediately became Broadway's hottest ticket. Rooney received a Tony nomination (as did Miller) and earned millions during his years with the show.

Rooney was among the last survivors of Hollywood's studio era, which his career predated. Rooney signed a contract with MGM in 1934 and landed his first big role as Clark Gable as a boy in "Manhattan Melodrama." A loanout to Warner Bros. brought him praise as an exuberant Puck in Max Reinhardt's 1935 production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which also featured James Cagney and a young Olivia de Havilland.

Rooney was soon earning $300 a week with featured roles in such films as "Riff Raff," ''Little Lord Fauntleroy," ''Captains Courageous," ''The Devil Is a Sissy," and most notably, as a brat humbled by Spencer Tracy's Father Flanagan in "Boys Town."

The big break came with the wildly popular Andy Hardy series, beginning with "A Family Affair."

But Rooney became a cautionary tale for early fame. He earned a reputation for drunken escapades and quickie romances and was unlucky in both money and love. In 1942 he married for the first time, to Gardner, the statuesque MGM beauty. He was 21, she was 19.

The marriage ended in a year, and Rooney joined the Army in 1943, spending most of his World War II service entertaining troops.

Rooney returned to Hollywood and disillusionment. His savings had been stolen by a manager and his career was in a nose dive. He made two films at MGM, then his contract was dropped.

"I began to realize how few friends everyone has," he wrote in his second autobiography. "All those Hollywood friends I had in 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941, when I was the toast of the world, weren't friends at all."

His movie career never regained its prewar eminence. "The Bold and the Brave," 1956 World War II drama, brought him an Oscar nomination as best supporting actor. But mostly, he played second leads in such films as "Off Limits" with Bob Hope, "The Bridges at Toko-Ri" with William Holden, and "Requiem for a Heavyweight" with Anthony Quinn. In the early 1960s, he had a wild turn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" as Audrey Hepburn's bucktoothed Japanese neighbor.

His later career proved his resilience: The Oscar nomination for "Black Stallion." The "Sugar Babies" hit that captivated New York, London, Las Vegas and major U.S. cities. Voicing animated features like "The Fox and the Hound," ''The Care Bears Movie" and "Little Nemo." An Emmy for his portrayal of a disturbed man in the 1981 TV movie "Bill."

In 1983, the Motion Picture Academy presented Rooney with an honorary Oscar for his "60 years of versatility in a variety of memorable film performances."

Born Joe Yule Jr. in 1920, he was the star of his parents' act by the age of 2, singing "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" in a tiny tuxedo. His father was a baggy-pants comic, Joe Yule, his mother a dancer, Nell Carter. Yule was a boozing Scotsman with a wandering eye, and the couple soon parted.

'Captain America' sets an April record with $96.2M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney and Marvel could be one of the finest teams around.

Continuing the success of their superhero franchise, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" has set a record as the biggest domestic April release ever. The Disney sequel debuted with $96.2 million, topping the previous record-holder, 2011's "Fast Five," which opened with $86.2 million.

"The Winter Soldier," which stars Chris Evans as the shield-wielding superhero and Scarlett Johansson (whose sci-fi film "Under the Skin" also debuted this weekend with $140,000) as Black Widow, commanded 32 international markets last weekend.

Expanding to Russia, Australia and China in its second week, the Marvel comic adaptation, boasting a budget of over $170 million, earned $107.1 million internationally this weekend, bringing its overall worldwide haul to more than $303 million.

Also a touchstone for Imax, "The Winter Soldier" received $9.6 million of its U.S. haul on 346 screens showing the film in the enhanced resolution format. Internationally, it showed on 278 Imax screens, bringing in $6.5 million, $4 million of which was delivered from China.

"Captain America: The First Avenger," which had a budget of around $140 million, debuted in July 2011 with $65 million. Overall, it earned $371 million worldwide.

Meanwhile, Paramount's biblical saga "Noah," starring Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly and Emma Watson, took a drastic dip in its second weekend, earning $17 million after debuting with $44 million. Still, it sailed into second place, crossing the $70 million mark domestically, while pushing Lionsgate's young adult science-fiction thriller "Divergent," led by Shailene Woodley, to third with $13 million in its third week. Its stateside total is now $114 million.

Freestyle Releasing's surprise hit "God's Not Dead" took the No. 4 slot with $7.7 million in its third weekend.

1. **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier,"** $96.2 million ($107.1 million international).
2. **"Noah,"** $17 million ($46 million international).
3. **"Divergent,"** $13 million ($11.1 million international).
4. **"God's Not Dead,"** $7.7 million.
5. **"The Grand Budapest Hotel,"** $6.3 million ($5.5 million international).
6. **"Muppets Most Wanted,"** $6.3 million ($1.9 million international).
7. **"Mr. Peabody and Sherman,"** $5.3 million ($11.2 million international).
8. **"Sabotage,"** $1.9 million.
9. **"Need for Speed,"** $1.84 million ($4.7 million international).
10. **"Non-Stop,"** $1.83 million ($2.5 million international).

Tetris in the sky: Gamers play on Philly building

By KATHY MATHESON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

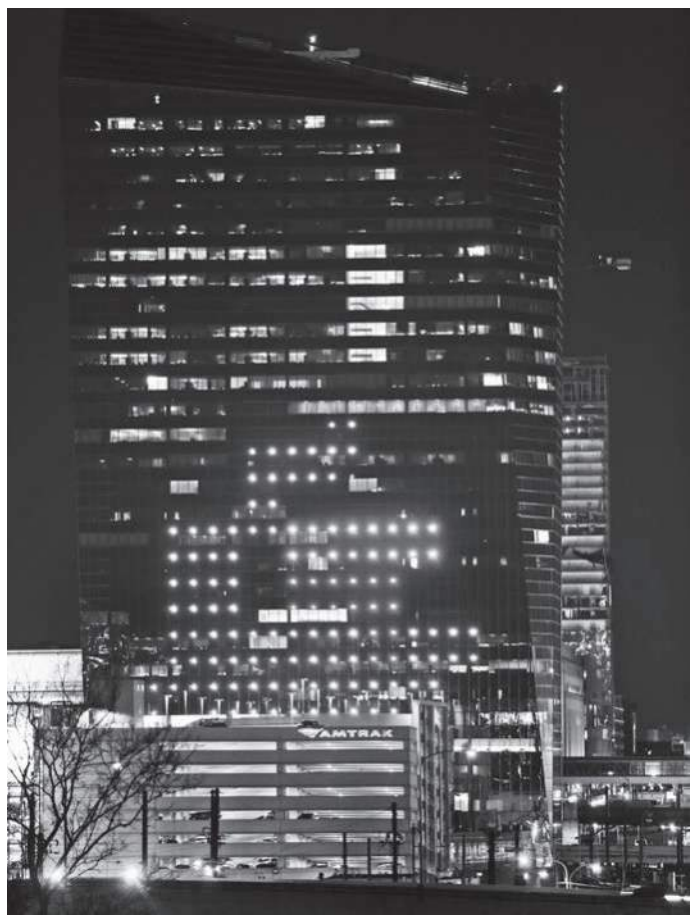
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sam Robinson said it's been about 15 years since he last played the videogame Tetris on a Game Boy. On Saturday night, he played it on the side of a skyscraper.

Robinson, 30, was among the hundreds of Tetris fans who had a little fun Saturday with a big version of the classic video game on the side of the 29-story Cira Centre in downtown Philadelphia.

"It has been probably 15 years since I played Tetris last on a Game Boy, and it's much different playing on the side of building that's a half-mile away," the city resident said. "Everything's happening so quick."

The hundreds of LED lights embedded in the building's glass facade normally display colorful patterns. On Saturday night, images of supersized shapes "fell" on two sides of the mirrored tower as competitors used joysticks to maneuver them, creating a spectacle against the night sky that organizers hoped inspired onlookers and players to think about the possibilities of technology.

It wasn't the first time Tetris has been played on a building. But the 100,000-square-foot "screen"—which includes the north and south faces of the structure—could be a record.



AP

The classic video game Tetris is played on the 29-story Cira Centre in Philadelphia, Saturday, April 5, 2014, using hundreds of LED lights embedded in its glass facade.

The spectacle kicked off a citywide series of events called Philly Tech Week. It also celebrated the upcoming 30th anniversary of a game revered as the epitome of elegance and simplicity, said Frank Lee, an associate professor of digital media at Drexel University.

Lee, a game designer who oversaw creation of the giant display, said putting it on an office building was like making a huge virtual campfire.

"This project began as a personal love letter to the games that I loved when I was a child—Pong last year, Tetris this year. But it ended up as a way of uniting the city of Philadelphia," Lee told the crowd.

Lee already holds the Guinness World Record for the world's largest architectural video game display for playing Pong on one side of the Cira Centre last year. Pong, the granddaddy of all video games, is an electronic version of paddleball developed by Atari in 1972.

Tetris, created by Russian computer programmer Alexey Pajitnov in 1984, challenges players to rotate and arrange falling shapes into complete rows.

It became a global phenomenon in the late 1980s after game designer Henk Rogers, who had seen Tetris at a trade show in Las Vegas, acquired the rights and struck a deal to put it on Nintendo's original Game Boy.

Rogers, who was among the players on Saturday in Philadelphia, said he can't believe the longevity of Tetris, which decades later continues to mesmerize players on more than 30 platforms.

"If a game lasts a year, that's amazing," said Rogers, now managing director of The Tetris Co. "They usually go out of style very quickly."

Malaysia bans Biblical epic 'Noah'

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia has banned the Biblical epic "Noah," joining other Muslim nations that forbid the Hollywood movie for its visual depiction of the prophet.

The Film Censorship Board says it reviewed the movie directed by Darren Aronofsky last month and found the portrayal of the ark-building prophet by Russell Crowe was against Islamic laws.

Board chairman Abdul Halim Abdul Hamid said in a statement Monday that the movie cannot be screened to "protect sensitivity and harmony in Malaysia's multi-racial and multi-religious community." Malay Muslims make up about 60 percent of Malaysia's 30 million people.

Much of the Muslim world, including Indonesia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, has banned the movie. Some Christian conservatives have also complained it takes liberties with the Biblical account of the flood.

James Franco apologizes for Instagram flirtation

NEW YORK (AP)—James Franco has apologized for his Instagram flirtation with a 17-year-old.

On the morning talk show "Live With Kelly and Michael," Franco said Friday that he used "bad judgment" and "learned my lesson."

The 35-year-old actor and filmmaker was caught trying to pick up a Scottish teenage girl named Lucy Clode on the photo-sharing app.

Franco said Friday that he was embarrassed and that he's "a model of how social media is tricky." He said the awkward process of meeting someone was made "doubly" embarrassing since it was in the public spotlight because of his celebrity.

Franco is currently starring in a revival of "Of Mice and Men" on Broadway.

In this Aug. 31, 2013 file photo, actor and director James Franco poses for photographers on the red carpet for the screening of the film "Child Of God" at the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

AP

AP

In this June 27, 2005 file photo, actress Brittany Murphy arrives to launch the summer sale of the Harrods department store in central London.

Brittany Murphy's last film gets 4-state test run

EUGENE, Oregon (AP)—Brittany Murphy's final movie opens Friday in Eugene before going on a limited run.

The actress died at age 32 in December 2009. That year she worked on a psychological thriller called "Something Wicked," and much of it was filmed in Eugene and nearby.

The movie made for nearly $5 million failed to get a distribution deal with the large studios. But producer and local businessman Scott Chambers told The Register-Guard that Regal Cinemas is giving the film a test run in Seattle, Portland, Alaska and Idaho over the next month before deciding whether to take it nationally.

Crews filmed at nearly 30 Oregon locations over a 40-day span in 2009. It's been sitting on the shelf since then for several reasons, Chambers said.

"The biggest was how to deal with the death of the lead actress Brittany Murphy," Chambers said.

Murphy, star of films such as "Clueless" and "8 Mile," died from pneumonia, anemia and multiple drug intoxication, according to the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

"In post-production there's voiceover work to fix lines, special effects work. It was a complicated matter to handle that," Chambers said. "Once all that was completed, we were looking at every aspect of the film knowing it was her last to make sure we were spending the right amount of time on it."

Daughter has no obligation to explain mother's suicide

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My mother committed suicide when I was a child. She was severely depressed, and although she sought professional help, the worst happened.

When conversing with acquaintances, the subject often turns to family, and I will say that my mother "passed away" when I was young. Most of the time they proceed to ask me how she died.

Abby, this is a personal family matter. I do not wish to reveal what really happened. I usually reply that she was very ill, but some nosy people persist in pressing for more information. How should I respond without being rude?

LOYAL OHIO READER

DEAR READER: You're under no obligation to reveal personal information that makes you uncomfortable. Simply say, "That's a very personal question, and I'd rather not discuss it." Then change the subject.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Since when has it been considered OK for women to be in men's dressing rooms in department stores? I have seen a lot of this during the last year.

I'm not a prude, and I understand that most men change in private booths, shielded from view of strangers. Still, I am disturbed when I come out of the smaller booth and find women hanging around in the dressing room.

In many cases, I have heard women actually IN the booths with men who are getting dressed, giggling—or, even more annoying, shouting out orders about sizes, styles, etc. Men are not allowed in women's dressing rooms.

When I have expressed my concern to salesclerks, they look at me like I'm crazy. Am I the only one who thinks women do not belong in men's dressing rooms?

CIVILIZED SHOPPER

DEAR SHOPPER: I don't know how long it has been between shopping trips for you, but your thinking is outdated. Today some stores have unisex dressing rooms, and men's and women's departments employ both male and female sales associates. It is not unusual for couples to shop together—and if something doesn't fit, for the spouse to go and find something in the correct size.

While you may not be the only one who thinks women don't belong in men's dressing rooms, I believe you are in the minority.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 46-year-old female cancer survivor. My hair used to be long, thick and naturally wavy. Because of the high-dose chemotherapy and radiation to treat my lymphoma, I lost all my hair. It has grown back, but it's thin, spotty and ugly. I have tried everything on the market, including foams, sprays, expensive hair clubs, etc., but nothing has worked.

Recently I started wearing a wig. It is natural-looking and stylish, and I feel confident again. I get lots of compliments on the cut and color.

My question is, when people ask who my stylist is, I'm not sure how to answer. I have been referring them to a friend who is a stylist, but I feel dishonest. However, I don't want to reveal my secret. What would you do?

UNDER THE RUG IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNDER THE RUG: Talk to the person who styles your wig for you and explain that you are receiving many compliments. Ask if you can refer other clients—but express that if you do, you would like the fact that you wear a wig kept strictly confidential. That's how I'd handle it. Hairdressers are privy to secrets of all kinds, and they're very good at keeping them (with rare exceptions).

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

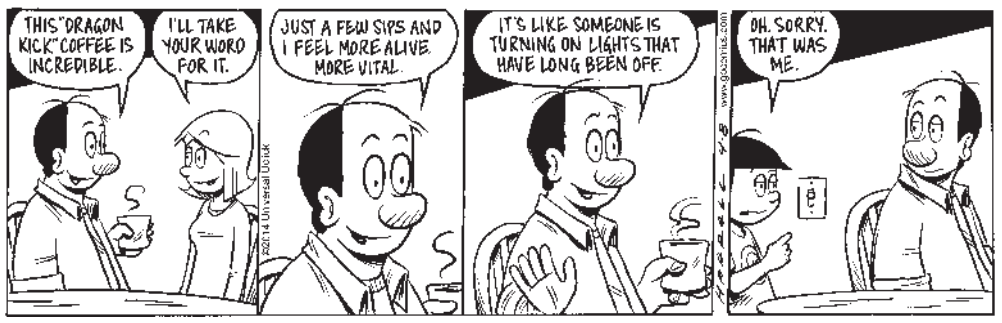
CALVIN, COME OUT FROM WHEREVER YOU'RE HIDING AND TAKE YOUR BATH!
DO YOU HEAR ME, CALVIN?! I MEAN NOW!
OH NO! LOOK AT YOU! AUGH! GET OFF THE RUG!
LIKE IT'S MY FAULT SHE HASN'T GOTTEN THE CHIMNEY SWEPT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

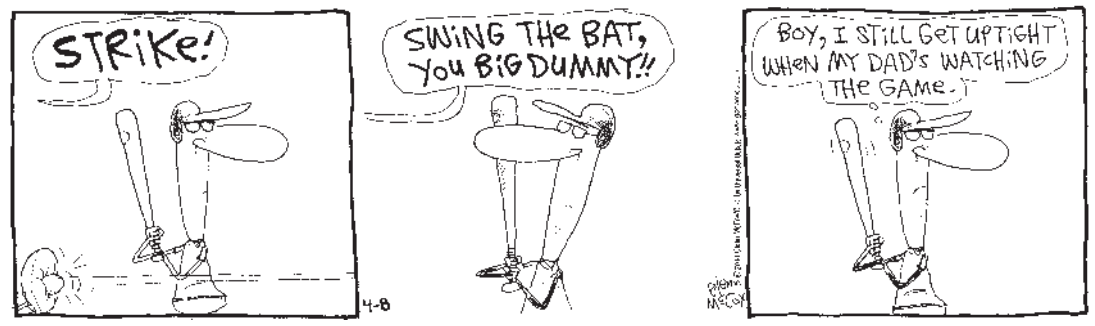
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS "DRAGON KICK" COFFEE IS INCREDIBLE.
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.
JUST A FEW SIPS AND I FEEL MORE ALIVE. MORE VITAL.
IT'S LIKE SOMEONE IS TURNING ON LIGHTS THAT HAVE LONG BEEN OFF.
OH. SORRY. THAT WAS ME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

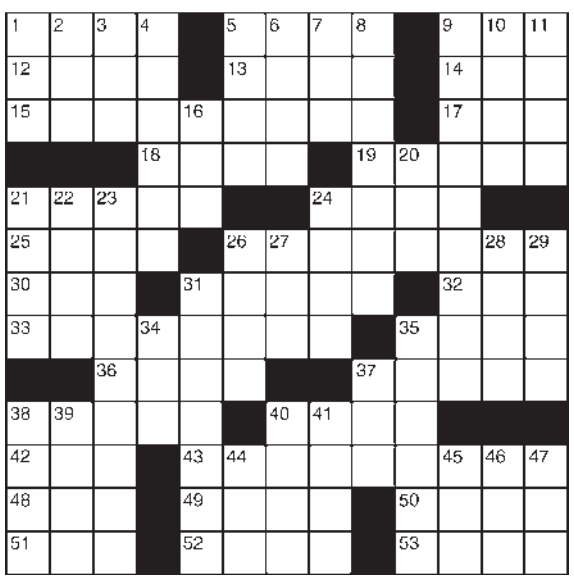
ACROSS
1 Supermarket lineup
5 Soaks (up)
9 Taxi
12 Composer Satie
13 Present covering
14 Japanese sash
15 Moot
17 Eccentric
18 Gratuities
19 Social ranking
21 Hut
24 Sword handle
25 Mid-month date
26 Sky-diver's thrill
30 Glutton
31 Makes tea
32 Ghost's greeting
33 Like some grapes and oranges
35 Paper holder
36 Even
37 Frock
38 Romney opponent
40 Shaving cream additive
42 Poke
43 Schedule
48 Everybody
49 Cupid's alias
50 Dirt
51 Eisenhower
52 Pub missile
53 Former mates

DOWN
1 Clampett patriarch
2 Exist
3 Cage component
4 Gear for Kristi Yamaguchi
5 Trade
6 Spheres
7 Crony
8 Genus subdivision
9 Public officer
10 Touch
11 Chomp
16 Up to
20 TV extra-terrestrial
21 Rose fruit
22 Garfield's companion
23 Parsnip, e.g.
24 Chops
26 Wilma's hubby
27 Scale members
28 "Family Guy" mom
29 Prunes
31 Spoke sheepishly?
34 Badly lit
35 Fold
37 Speck
38 Town near Santa Barbara
39 Pitching slip-up
40 Latin love
41 For fear that
44 A Gershwin
45 Carton
46 Whopper
47 Golfer Ernie

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	R	I	P	■	F	I	T	■	J	E	D	I
V	I	S	I	G	O	I	H	■	A	D	E	N
D	O	R	M	O	U	S	E	■	C	I	E	N
■	■	■	P	A	R	■	F	A	K	E	R	S
Q	U	I	L	L	■	M	I	L	E	■	■	■
E	S	N	E	■	D	O	R	O	T	H	Y	■
D	E	N	■	F	O	S	S	E	■	O	A	F
■	D	O	R	I	G	H	T	■	D	E	M	O
■	■	■	O	B	O	E	■	J	E	S	S	E
E	V	E	N	S	O	■	A	I	M	■	■	■
V	I	L	A	■	D	O	R	M	A	N	C	Y
E	V	I	L	■	E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R
R	A	N	D	■	R	E	O	■	D	E	E	S

Yesterday's answer 4-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Kitsch, 33; Patricia Arquette, 46; Robin Wright, 48; John Schneider, 54

Happy Birthday: Follow your gut and use your ability to reach out to others compassionately to help you get ahead. Budget wisely when dealing with domestic expenses. You can cut your overhead if you work toward a common goal with someone who shares your concerns and your needs. Don't feel inclined to make an impulsive move. Strategy will be required. Your numbers are 1, 6, 14, 22, 27, 31, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stay calm and face each situation that arises with confidence. Make plans to spend time with someone you enjoy being with and who you've grown to depend on for input and support. A change at home will turn out to be beneficial. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Work to resolve important issues. Taking care of personal matters and fixing problems on the domestic front will help stabilize your life, allowing you to get back to business as usual. A makeover will lift your spirits. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): An unexpected turn of events will result in work-related changes. Don't panic; use your intelligence and speed to manipulate the situation to suit your best interests. Express your thoughts with passion and you will be recognized and rewarded. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Mistakes coupled with pessimism will make you look bad. Step outside any situation you face and look for alternative ways to make improvements and to stabilize your position. Be creative, open and optimistic, and you will win support. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't stop. Now is the time to fast-forward to your next conquest. Your ability to converse and run the show will bring about change as long as you stick to your budget and honor your promises. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be careful how you dispense of your cash. Don't let anyone bully you into buying something you do not need. An impulsive move will not help you reach your goals. Helping others must be minimal. Charity begins at home. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There will be plenty of action and lots to watch out for. Resourcefulness coupled with caution will help you make better choices. Overdoing it mentally, physically, financially or emotionally will backfire, leaving you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Size up your situation and make your move. Your intuitive pull will take you down an unusual path that is sure to help you expand your interests. Love is on the rise, and making your place more romantic will improve your domestic life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Helping someone elderly can bring its rewards. Money is heading in your direction, and making positive adjustments at home will bring you to a higher standard of living. Don't let a past love bring you down. Truth will be withheld. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stop fighting and start going with the flow. Step back and view your situation objectively. You may have to walk away from a person, situation or project if there are no longer any benefits. Turn a negative into a positive. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your best foot forward. Make a choice that will help you follow a dream. Changing the way you earn your living or making financial moves that will bring you closer to your goals should be your intent. Action will result in progress. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Focus on your health and wellness. Set up a routine that will enable you to schedule fitness and help you stick to a nutritional diet. Expand your interests to include things you used to enjoy and you will find love and happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming and intuitive. You are impulsive and impatient.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			7	9		4	
6					4			5
		9		1				
			7				2	1
1		2		9		3		6
9	6				1			
				4		2		
2			6					4
	1		9	8			7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	1	4	7	2	6	5	8
6	2	7	8	3	5	9	4	1
4	5	8	1	6	9	7	3	2
2	7	6	5	4	3	8	1	9
1	4	5	7	9	8	3	2	6
9	8	3	2	1	6	5	7	4
8	6	2	3	5	4	1	9	7
5	1	4	9	8	7	2	6	3
7	3	9	6	2	1	4	8	5

Difficulty Level ★ 4/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARE YOU ERUDITE? **Solution: 9 letters**

D	D	L	S	A	G	E	Q	K	E	R	A	W	A	T
E	E	I	A	K	R	U	L	A	R	E	B	I	L	H
H	N	T	S	N	I	T	Ⓐ	Ⓒ	Ⓔ	F	R	D	E	G
S	N	E	A	C	O	L	I	B	O	I	I	E	R	U
I	R	R	K	C	E	I	L	C	L	N	G	N	T	A
L	A	A	D	P	I	R	T	E	U	E	H	I	R	T
P	E	R	E	W	R	T	N	P	D	L	T	A	E	N
M	L	Y	M	S	U	E	S	I	E	D	A	R	P	E
O	E	L	R	T	C	E	C	I	N	C	A	T	X	I
C	T	W	O	R	B	H	G	I	H	G	X	O	E	C
C	T	R	F	D	I	L	O	S	S	P	D	E	L	I
A	E	W	N	N	O	M	M	O	C	E	O	E	D	F
D	R	W	I	T	T	Y	D	U	L	L	V	S	A	F
P	E	E	D	S	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	E	E
G	D	E	S	R	E	V	E	D	R	Y	D	I	R	A

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Able, Accomplished, Ace, Alert, Arid, Articulate, Aware, Bright, Clever, Common, Creative, Deep, Discerning, Dry, Dull, Efficient, Exceptional, Expert, Highbrow, Informed, Learn, Lettered, Liberal, Literary, Load, Precise, Quick, Read, Refine, Sage, Schooled, Skilled, Solid, Sophisticated, Taught, Trained, Tutored, Versed, Wise, Witty

Yesterday's Answer: Quagmire

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38** call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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No phone calls please.

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1 – TEMPORARY TATTOO ARTIST – Applicant must have 4 years of work experience working with registered imitation of an original tattoo. Must be knowledgeable with the uses of brush and variety of inks and colors. Ability to explain and help customer decide if designs in terms of the tattoos are adapted to their skins for a longer period or not. Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written). Must have excellent customer services. Must be able to work flexible hours, weekends and holidays.

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And follow the instruction. If you do not have access to computer/Internet, Employment Applications are available at Star Sands Plaza office.

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Manage a small retail business with multiple locations on Saipan. Manage the competitiveness, profitability and growth of the company. Duties includes planning, developing strategic and operation plans, managing cash flow and liquidity, evaluating product lines and displays, setting customer services to attract and achieve customer retention, overseeing purchases, displays and inventory, and achieving budget and minimizing cost variances, ensuring security and loss prevention management and regulatory compliance, acquiring technological and achieving service advantages from retail management software and networked POS systems. The GM is required to train a young un-experienced Management Trainee/Owner for position take-over in the medium term. Flexible hours are expected, to manage opening and closings of multiple stores.

Qualifications: Applicants must have at a minimum a bachelors or undergraduate degree in business or management from an **AACSB** accredited University. **Conceptual training in business policy, marketing management, operations management, management/cost accounting, business finance and management systems from an accredited business school are required.** The firm operates in a saturated and very competitive retail environment. Applicants are required to have at least ten years business experience with four years hands on experience of retailing FMCG, food and meat products on Saipan. Remuneration package is $55K - $70K per year, depending on experience.

Interested and qualified applicants are invited to submit a resume, police clearance and salary expectations by mail to P.O. Box 504514, Saipan MP 96950 by 20th April 2014. All applicants must submit a copy of their tertiary qualifications and employment references with telephone contact numbers for verification. U.S. citizens are sought for this position. THIS IS A MANAGEMENT POSITION, AND WE WILL NOT ENTERTAIN WALK IN APPLICANTS OR PHONE ENQUIRIES. Only applicants that meet the requirements above will be notified for an interview.

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Saipan Tribune

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Email: tlssaipan@gmail.com

Job Announcement
For Qualified U.S. Citizens

Position: 1 Tour Coordinator Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Coordinate all incoming schedules, assist in customer tour participation, explain in Japanese for all forms needed to be read and signed. Contacting other tour company for scheduling and reservations and other related duties as assigned to. Fully able to read, write and speak fluent Japanese. Must have at least 2 years experience in tour related activities.

Position: 1 Manager, Marine Service Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Direct activities of boat services, according to knowledge of maintenance need of small craft and marine safety requirements. Confers with owner or crew of vessel to obtain maintenance history and details concerning condition of craft. Observes and listen to vessel in operation to detect unsafe or malfunctioning equipment and leaks or other flaws in hull and superstructure. Must be able to repair/overhaul boat engine (gasoline or diesel) and other related duties as assigned. Employer Preference: College graduate with atleast 5 years experience and must be able to perform the job duties.

Position: 1 Operations Manager Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Plan, direct or coordinate the operations of company, manage daily operations. Oversee activities directly related to making products or providing services. Manage staff, preparing work schedules and assigning specific duties. Coordinating with other department heads as required and other related duties as assigned to. College graduate with at least 5 years experience, preferably in managing water sports activities.

Interested applicants may submit their resume to the Marine Sports Center counter located at the beach side of Hafadai Beach Hotel not later than April 25, 2014.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2014

Opening date: March 31, 2014 **Closing date: April 25, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position:
(1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian)
(3) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Tariff Technician-I (Port of Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/ MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

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LeBron scores 38, Heat top Knicks, 102-91

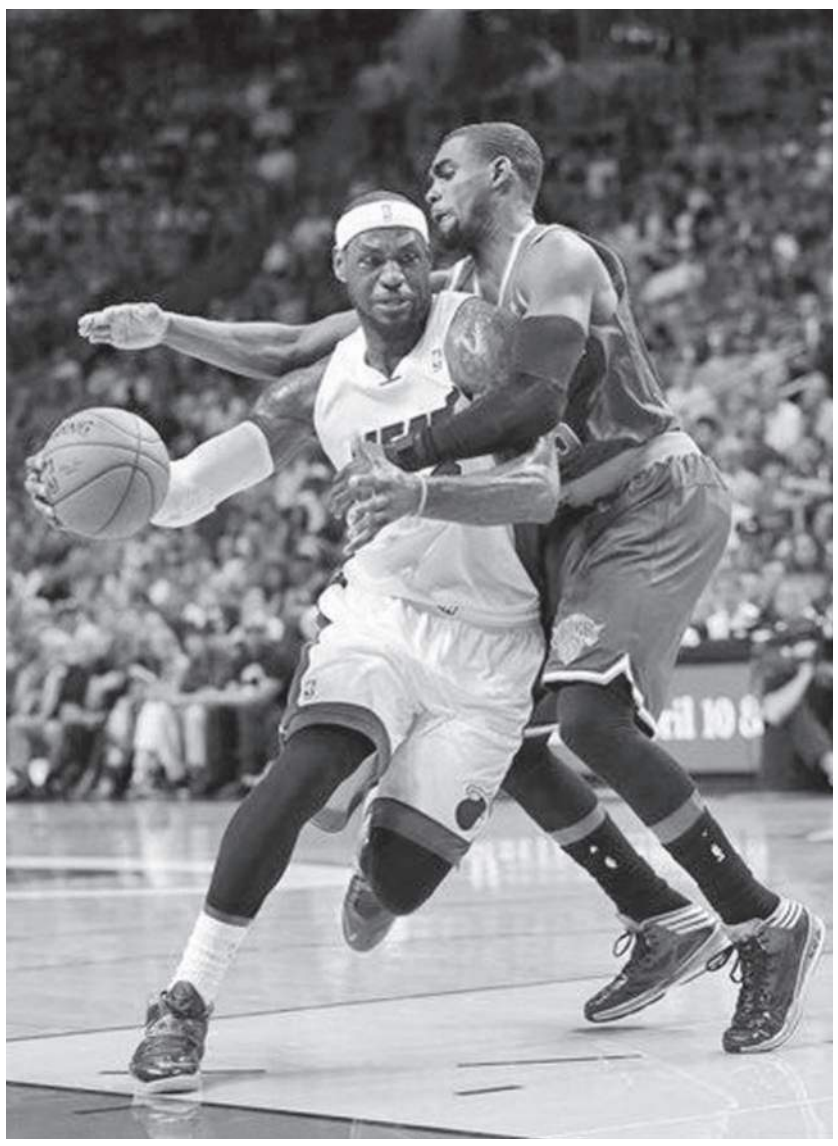
MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James scored 38 points and Mario Chalmers added 15 as the Miami Heat survived a 3-point barrage from New York's J.R. Smith on the way to dealing the Knicks' playoff hopes a big blow with a 102-91 victory on Sunday.

Chris Bosh added 14 points and Ray Allen had 12 for the Heat, who are a full game ahead of Indiana and two up in the loss column in the Eastern Conference race.

Smith made a Knicks-record 10 3-pointers, on an NBA-record 22 attempts, and finished with 32 points. Raymond Felton scored 14 for New York and Carmelo Anthony managed only 13, on 4 for 17 shooting.

Anthony had two points after halftime, while James had 22.

The Knicks are two games behind Atlanta in the race for the final playoff spot, three in the loss column.



AP

Miami Heat forward LeBron James is fouled by New York Knicks guard Tim Hardaway Jr., right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Miami.

Trail Blazers 100, Pelicans 94

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 18 rebounds as Portland clinched its first playoff appearance in three seasons with the win over New Orleans.

Wesley Matthews added 21 points, Damian Lillard 20 and Nicolas Batum had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who are in fifth place in the Western Conference with four games remaining.

Reserve Anthony Morrow had 17 for New Orleans and Anthony Davis had 15 points on 6-of-18 shooting.

Suns 122, Thunder 115

In Phoenix, Kevin Durant scored 38 points, his 41st consecutive game of 25 or more, but Phoenix got 26 points from Goran Dragic and 24 from Gerald Green to beat Oklahoma City.

Durant moved ahead of Michael Jordan with the third-longest such streak in NBA history and longest since Oscar Robertson did it for 46 in a row in the 1963-64 season.

P.J. Tucker scored a career-high 22 points, including a career-best four 3-pointers, for the Suns, who pulled a game ahead of Memphis for the No. 8 playoff spot in the West and took the season series from the Thunder 2-1. Eric Bledsoe added 18 points.

Hawks 107, Pacers 88

In Indianapolis, Jeff Teague scored 25 points in Atlanta's rout of reeling Indiana, which was held to a franchise-low 23 points in the first half of an embarrassing performance on its home floor.

The Hawks have won three of four and extended their lead over the Knicks for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference to two full games.

The Pacers have lost four of five and fell a full game behind Miami in their quest for the No. 1 seed in the East. Paul George scored 18 points and David West had 17 on a night All-Star center Roy Hibbert did not play the final 30 minutes.

Rockets 130, Nuggets 125, OT

In Houston, James Harden had 32 points and Chandler Parsons scored eight points in overtime to lift Houston over Denver.

Denver led by one in overtime when Houston made three consecutive 3-pointers, two of them by Parsons, to make it 130-122 with less than two minutes left.

The Rockets trailed by eight late in regulation before using a 9-1 run, capped by a 3-pointer by Harden under heavy pressure from Randy Foye, to tie it at 117 with 7.1 seconds remaining.

Warriors 130, Jazz 102

In Oakland, California, Klay Thompson scored 33 points and Stephen Curry added 31 points and 16 assists as Golden State rolled past Utah to keep pace in the Western Conference playoff race.

The streaky shooting backcourt tandem helped the Warriors eclipse last season's win total with its 48th victory and move 19 games over .500 for the first time in 20 years. Golden State remains 1½ games behind fifth-place Portland and 1½ games ahead of seventh-place Dallas in the crammed conference standings.

Spurs 112, Grizzlies 92

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard matched his career high with 26 points and Manu Ginobili had a season-high 26 as San Antonio eased past Memphis after losing Tony Parker to injury.

Parker's status is unknown after he was forced to leave with back spasms early in the first quarter. The All-Star point guard took a hard fall as he drove the lane, landing squarely on his back near the free throw line after being fouled by Memphis' Mike Conley with 7:38 left. Parker remained on the court for about a minute, but rose and continued playing before exiting with 2:41 remaining in the first.

Clippers 120, Lakers 97

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin and Chris Paul scored 23 points apiece as the Los Angeles Clippers hung another rout on the Lakers to take three of four games this season from their beleaguered Staples Center co-tenants.

It wasn't quite the blowout of the Clippers' previous two wins—48 points on March 6 and 36 points on Jan. 10—but they were easily in command as the designated home team.

J.J. Redick added 15 points and DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Pacific Division-winning Clippers, who improved to 32-6 at home.

Mavericks 93, Kings 91

In Sacramento, California, Monta Ellis scored eight of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as Dallas kept its playoff position by beating Sacramento for its third straight win.

The Mavericks won for the fourth time in five games to maintain seventh place in the Western Conference. It was Dallas' fifth straight road win.

Rudy Gay had 32 points and tied a career high with eight assists for the Kings, and DeMarcus Cousins added 28 points and 10 rebounds.

Orioles beat Tigers 3-1, handing them 1st loss

DETROIT (AP)—Chris Tillman outpitched Justin Verlander, allowing one run while working into the ninth, as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers 3-1 Sunday in the American League to avoid getting swept.

Tillman (1-0) gave up five hits, including Torii Hunter's solo homer in the fourth, in 8 1-3 innings. Tommy Hunter entered with one out in the ninth and Victor Martinez on second base and retired the last two batters for his second save.

Baltimore won for the first time since its opener against Major League Baseball's last undefeated team.

Rangers 3, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Yu Darvish allowed seven hits over seven innings in his season debut, Elvis Andrus hit a two-run homer, and Texas avoided a three-game sweep.

Darvish (1-0) struck out six and walked one. Sidelined by neck stiffness, it was his first outing since a spring training game on March 16.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, CC Sabathia pitched six innings for his first victory of the season and Brett Gardner hit a two-run home run for New York.

Sabathia (1-1) allowed four runs and seven hits, walked none and struck out six. He was hit hard in Tuesday's opening day loss at Houston, allowing six runs and eight hits, including two home runs, in six innings.

Twins 10, Indians 7

In Cleveland, Chris Colabello drove in four runs and Brian Dozier scored three times as Minnesota outslugged Cleveland.

Colabello broke a 6-6 tie with a three-run double in the sixth inning off Blake Wood (0-1). He leads the AL with 11 RBIs after six games.

Joe Mauer had three hits and scored twice for the Twins, who took two of three in the series and will play their home opener Monday against Oakland.

Astros 7, Angels 4

In Houston, Scott Feldman threw seven strong innings and five Astros homered as Houston ended a three-game losing streak.

Feldman (2-0) did not allow a hit until two outs in the fourth, when Josh Hamilton dribbled one toward first base that went under the glove of Feldman, who charged at it off the mound.

White Sox 5, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Chris Sale gave up four singles in eight scoreless innings for Chicago.

Alexei Ramirez and Tyler Flowers each drove in a pair of runs as the White Sox won the series finale after dropping the first two games.

Athletics 6, Mariners 3

In Oakland, California, Jim Johnson struck out two and closed it out after losing back-to-back outings to begin with his new team, saving Oakland's victory.

Brandon Moss hit a three-run homer, Yoenis Cespedes connected in the eighth and Josh Donaldson beat out an infield single in the fifth to drive in the go-ahead run.

Brewers 4, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Yovani Gallardo made his second straight scoreless start as Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep.

The World Series champion Red Sox, who never had a losing record last year, fell to 2-4 and matched their longest skid of 2013. They were swept just once last season, in a three-game series against the Texas Rangers from May 3-5.

Nationals 2, Braves 1

In Washington, Ian Desmond led off the seventh inning with a home run—the only run of the game scored on a hit—as the Washington Nationals and their makeshift lineup avoided a sweep with a win over the Atlanta Braves in the National League.

Desmond ripped a down-the-middle fastball from Alex Wood (1-1) well into the left field bleachers, the Nationals' first hit since the first inning. But it was enough to win on a day when four Washington pitchers combined to allow eight hits.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 1

In Pittsburgh, Tony Sanchez hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the seventh inning as Pittsburgh edged St. Louis.

Sanchez's double to deep center field with two outs came off Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright (1-1) and broke a 1-1 tie.

Padres 4, Marlins 2

In Miami, pinch-hitter Alexi Amarista celebrated his 25th birthday by delivering a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning to lift San Diego.

Ian Kennedy (1-1) allowed one run and three hits in six innings for the Padres. He struck out five.

Reds 2, Mets 1

In New York, Alfredo Simon pitched seven impressive innings in his first start in more than two years and began the go-ahead rally with his second career hit, helping Cincinnati salvage a win in the three-game series.

Joey Votto had a sacrifice fly and Ryan Ludwick a tiebreaking single off Jonathon Niese (0-1), who was making his first start of the season after a being slowed by shoulder and elbow injuries this spring.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

In Denver, Mark Trumbo homered for the fourth straight game as Arizona averted a sweep.

Wade Miley pitched eight strong innings to extend his mastery over the Rockies. He also had a career-best three hits, including an RBI single and benefited from a defense that turned five double plays as the Diamondbacks won for just the second time in nine games this season.

Cubs 8, Phillies 3

In Chicago, Ryan Kalish hit a two-run double and an RBI triple and Chicago avoided a sweep.

Cubs starter Carlos Villanueva (1-2) allowed a run in five innings in his first start and third outing of the season.

Dodgers 6, Giants 2

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp hit his first two home runs at Dodger Stadium since late in 2012 and Hanley Ramirez slugged his first two homers this season, helping Los Angeles avoid a three-game sweep.

Zack Greinke (2-0) pitched six innings, allowing two runs and six hits — including Brandon Belt's fourth homer leading off the sixth and the first of the season by Hunter Pence three batters later. The right-hander struck out eight and walked none.

Jones' playoff chip-in wins Houston Open

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Matt Jones told his caddy he was about to make a 42-yard chip-in on the first playoff hole at the Houston Open.

The Australian did just that on Sunday, earning his first PGA Tour win in spectacular fashion—and changing his immediate travel plans in the process.

Jones, who began the day six shots off the lead, shot a final-round 66 and ended the tournament 15 under to earn his first trip to the Masters with the dramatic win over Matt Kuchar.

He earned nearly $1.2 million for the win, also making amends for a disastrous missed putt last September that appeared destined to keep him from playing at Augusta National.

Destiny, however, had other plans for the 33-year-old who played collegiately at Arizona State.

"Going to Augusta is amazing," Jones said. "The win means everything to me right now because that's what we play for is to win. To have Augusta as a reward for that win is amazing."

In September, Jones lipped out an 8-foot birdie putt on the last hole of the BMW Championship—a putt that would have earned him a trip to next week's Masters by sending him to the Tour Championship.

After briefly tying Kuchar in the middle of the round on Sunday, Jones' chances at redemption for last year appeared finished after he bogeyed the next-to-last hole in regulation. The setback left Jones at 14 under, two shots back of Kuchar.

However, Jones—in the first of his two memorable moments on the 18th—rolled in a 46-foot putt for birdie. That pulled the Australian within one shot of Kuchar, who was watching his closest challenger from the tee.

"I was going to three-putt before I left it short," Jones said. "I didn't care about finishing second or third or fourth; it didn't matter. I was only trying to get the win."

Kuchar went on to bogey the final hole of regulation after sending his second shot into the water. That set the stage for the playoff in the soggy conditions at the Golf Club of Houston.

Jones sent his tee shot on the first hole of the playoff into the right fairway bunker. He then landed just short of the greenside bunker with his second shot, while Kuchar found the bunker from the fairway.

AP

Matt Jones waves to the crowd on the 16th hole during the final round of the Houston Open golf tournament, Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Humble, Texas.

It was the second straight miss of the 18th green from the fairway for Kuchar, who sent his fairway metal on the 72nd hole into the water before recovering to make bogey and reach the playoff.

Jones didn't leave Kuchar any room for error in the playoff, sending his chip over the greenside bunker and watching as it rolled in—causing a roar from the gallery and leaving Jones standing with his arm raised in celebration.

"I walked up there and told my caddy I was going to chip it in," Jones said. "... You don't know if it's going to lip out, low or high, but when I saw it disappear it's probably the happiest I've been on the golf course."

Jones is the second straight Australian to win on the PGA Tour, following Steven Bowditch's win at the Texas Open last week.

It was in San Antonio that Kuchar struggled to a final-round 75 while playing in the final pairing with Bowditch. The American began Sunday with a four-shot lead over Sergio Garcia and Cameron Tringale, but he bogeyed the first hole on his way to a disappointing even-par 72 and bitter ending.

Kuchar had a chance to match Jones' chip-in, but his bunker shot came up short.

"Certainly fantastic stuff (by Jones) to birdie 18 twice," Kuchar said. "That's probably the hardest hole on the golf course, and for him to put two 3s is pretty impressive stuff."

Golfers were sent off in threesomes early Sunday morning for the second day in a row because of the threat of strong storms in the Houston area. The rain, heavy at times, began early during the final pairing's round, but the pros finished without any delays.

The playoff opening was all that was need for Jones, whose previous best finish on the PGA Tour was a tie for second at last year's Greenbrier Classic.

It also resulted in an unexpected visit to next week's Masters, a tournament Jones said he wouldn't visit unless he earned his way there.

"I was going home to play with my 2-year-old and 3-week-old," Jones said. "So, bit of a change now that I think they'll be on a plane to Augusta as well. We've got to find a house."

Garcia finished in third at 13 under, while Tringale was fourth at 12 under.

Rory McIlroy matched the low round of the tournament with a 7-under 65 on Sunday, finishing tied for seventh at 8 under overall.

Phil Mickelson, who won the tournament in 2011, was 1 under on Sunday and finished 7 under overall in a tie for 12th—a week after he was forced to withdraw from the Texas Open because of a muscle pull in his right side.

UConn and Kentucky for national title

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Connecticut and Kentucky couldn't have met in last year's championship game and few people gave them a chance to be in this year's.

Seventh-seeded Connecticut and eighth-seeded Kentucky meet Monday night in one of the unlikeliest NCAA championship games ever.

Neither was around in last year's postseason—Connecticut because of a tournament ban over academic issues; Kentucky because it didn't make the field. And neither looked like national title contenders at times this season.

Kentucky (29-10) and its outstanding freshmen went from preseason No. 1 to out of the rankings after some bad losses. And Connecticut (31-8) was not a popular postseason pick after finishing tied for third in the American Athletic Conference with multiple losses to Louisville and SMU.

In the tournament, the Huskies have stopped some of the country's top guards and put themselves in position for their fourth national championship, the previous three under Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame coach Jim Calhoun.

"Hopefully we have an opportunity to fall back on our defense," second-year coach Kevin Ollie said. "We have been doing that the whole year."

If Kentucky has a chance to win in the final minute, that defense better pay attention to guard Aaron Harrison, one of five freshmen starters.

He has hit huge 3-pointers in the Wildcats' last three games. Harrison rattled in a 26-footer with 5.7 seconds to go in the 74-73 win over Wisconsin in the semifinals. He made almost the exact same shot with 2.3 seconds left against Michigan for a 75-72 win that sent the Wildcats to the Final Four. Against Louisville, he hit a 3 with 39 seconds left to give Kentucky the lead for good in a 74-69.

"The biggest thing is he's not afraid to miss," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "He's OK with it. He's comfortable in his own skin. ... If you're going to make those kind of shots, you absolutely cannot be afraid to miss them."

These two programs have combined to win six of the last 18 NCAA titles.

"Playing against Connecticut, I mean, I'm just happy we're still playing," Calipari said.

Neither program could say that last year.

Connecticut was banned from the postseason after failing to meet NCAA academic standard. It had practice limitations and lost a scholarship. The players could have transferred but didn't. The Huskies finished 20-10 in Ollie's first year. They took the hit and made it back to the biggest stage.

"It's actually very impressive," NCAA president Mark Emmert said Sunday. "To see that team hold together. I think it's a commitment to those young men on that team that hung together."

The leader of the group is All-American Shabazz Napier who leads the team in almost every statistical category. He's the guy who makes the big shot or big pass. Fellow guard Ryan Boatright has taken some of the spotlight recently for his defensive performances against the likes of Keith Appling of Michigan State and Scottie Wilbekin of Florida.

"Defense is the biggest thing for me. The points will come," Boatright said. "I want to make him uncomfortable, don't let him get in a rhythm or flow. Their guards, God blessed them with height and they will try to take advantage of smaller guys like us but I've been the smaller guy my whole life and I've never backed down."

Kentucky is playing its best basketball lately, led by big man Julius Randle and the Harrison twins.

"We just had too much talent and we saw in spurts how good we could be," Randle said, "so it just felt like it was a matter of time before it clicked."

This is Calipari's fourth Final Four, but the first two—Massachusetts in 1996 and Memphis in 2008—were vacated over NCAA rules violations.

Now the Wildcats are on an 11-game winning streak in the NCAA tournament and they are one win from a ninth national championship for Kentucky.

"We all play the game of basketball to compete against the best," Napier said. "This is one of them games. ... They worked hard to get to this point and we did too. We're going to do our best to get this `W.'"

3 make March honor roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Tennis' Luke Beling made it back-to-back, while two others gained their first monthly honors from the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Beling was selected Male Athlete of the Month for March after a three-peat in the 2014 Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championship. He competed in three events in the PIC tournament and was unbeaten in the two-weekend competition, winning the men's open singles, men's open doubles, and mixed open doubles.

The Fiesta Resort & Spa tennis instructor outclassed Moris Villanueva in the men's open singles finals, teamed up with fellow coach Jeff Race in clinching the men's open doubles title, and partnered with Mikayla Lopez in ruling the mixed open doubles. Before earning NMASA's votes for his string of victories, Beling was also unscathed in a tournament in February to earn his first-ever plum from the sports group.

Joining Beling in the March honor roll were MP United Football Club forward Sun Joon Tenorio and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe, who were named NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Month.

Tenorio was cited for his impressive performance in the Pacific Ocean Cup 3 in Japan and Pacific Ocean Cup 4 on Saipan last month. He took the MVP awards of both tournaments after leading MP United FC to a runner-up finish in the Japan leg and the championship in the last stop of the competition on Saipan.

The Whispering Palms School student scored the most goals in the Pacific Ocean Cup 3. He then took the Golden Boot award in the Pacific Ocean Cup 4 after collecting a field-best nine goals.

Watanabe also had outstanding showing in two tournaments last month to share the student top honors with Tenorio. The 8-year-old swimmer bagged the high-point first place trophy in the 8-and-under division of the 2014 Saipan Swim Club International Invitation Swim Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and topped her division in the 2014 SSC Ocean Swim.

Watanabe's title win in the swim meet was highlighted by her record-breaking time in the 100m breaststroke event. She clocked in at 1:51:11 to eclipse the 14-year mark of SSC's Amanda Johnson, who posted 2:00.13 on March 31, 2000.

Watanabe was one of the only two Tsunami Saipan swimmers to make it to the CNMI record books in the girls 8-and-under age group. Ashley Dangol was the other one, logging 1.58.06 in the 100m butterfly.

IP&E

From Page 28

Top 8 teams in the 15-team field will advance to the playoffs after the single-elimination regular season and the division is past the halfway mark of the preliminaries so teams are pressured to start collecting important wins.

IP&E got one from McDonald's, which absorbed back-to-back losses after winning six straight. IP&E handed McDonald's another setback when Matthew Richardson reached home in the bottom of the seventh inning off a McDonald's error at second base. Richardson led off for IP&E in the last inning, had a walk and made it to second off a passed ball. Delvin Ada was next at bat, but grounded out at first, while Brandon Delos Reyes hit his target with the ball dropping to second and McDonald's Kiku committing a fumble, giving Richardson time to run home for the win.

IP&E had to go through extra inning to thwart McDonald's, which came back from a 1-4 deficit after racking up three runs at the top of the sixth inning. IP&E led right away in the first inning, 2-0, off Tyrese Camacho's RBI single and Dai Podziewski's run from McDonald's error at short stop. McDonald's also nailed a run off IP&E's miscue in the second inning to move within one, but the latter gained some cushion in the third inning, bagging two more runs off the former's lapses. However, IP&E failed to keep the driver's seat at the end of the regulation, as McDonald's fought back at the bottom of the sixth to extend the game.

While IP&E went the distance to beat McDonald's, Laolao Bay took the short route to victory over the Jets. Laolao secured the lopsided win after only three and a half innings. Back-to-back five runs in the first two innings helped Laolao take the early decision, as it turned the Jets' miscues to seven unearned runs. The three earned other runs came in the first inning off J.P. Celis' RBI triple and Franco Namauleg and Jun Celis' RBI singles. Laolao also drew an RBI single from J.P. Celis and three more runs off the Jets' errors in the third inning.

J.P. Celis and Justin Ada pitched for Laolao and combined for a two-hitter, four walks, and eight strikeouts.

Comets II 12, Twins 4

In last Saturday's second game, Comets II won the battle of the teams at the bottom half of the team standings.

With the victory, Comets II snapped its seven-game losing skid, while the Twins absorbed their 12th in as many games. Both teams are out of the playoffs and are just aiming for a decent record at the end of the regular season.

Down 0-1 after one and a half inning, Comets II took control of the match at the bottom of the second, scoring eight runs. Comets II notched five earned runs in the pivotal inning to grab the lead and never lost it, as the Twins could not get their acts together in the last four innings.

SENDIN

From Page 28

group. Sendin also prevailed in the 30 to 34 group last year and was the third finisher in the non-pro division.

The diminutive triathlete finished ahead of fellow Saipan bets' Erick Cooke (5:48:19), Nap Dizon (3:49:46), Brad Ruszala (5:10:06), Peter Prestley (3:49:03), Tyce Mister (3:51:23), Ricky Melchor (4:25:44), Noel Altamirano (4:46:20), and Manny Sitchon (5:25:24).

Meanwhile, Canada's Charles Fortier was the first non-pro finisher in the weekend race. He timed in at 27:31 in the swim leg in the waters off Micro Beach, submitted 1:45:44 in the bike, and 1:06:15 in the run part to make it to the finish line at the 3:19:30 mark. He also took the top honors in the 40 to 44 age group, defeating six other participants.

Pierre Arnaud Le Magnan of Hong Kong posted the second-best time in the amateur division, followed by Japan's Toshiyuki. Le Magnan clocked in at 3:19 58 (28:32, 1:43:19, and 1:10:00) to claim the first place medal in the 45 to 49 age group against Furuya, who logged 3:20:17 (28:32, 1:47:39, and 1:04:06).

Other top finishers in their respective age groups were 25 to 29's Cooke, 35 to 39's Dizon, 50 to 54's Yuji Ono (3:34:16), 55 to 59's Makoto Kayatama (4:52:39), 65 to 59's Allan Moore (4:31:33), and over 70's GL Brown (5:48:19).

Thirteen more triathletes in the men's amateur division completed the tough championship course. The list includes Guam's Logan Blackwelder (4:39:52), Mark Jolin (3:47:55), Oliver Cerbo (4:08:09), Mark Cruz (4:30:09), Richard Leone (3:49:32), Mark Walters (3:57:24), and Rickie Sorenson (4:35:38); the U.S.' Jay Sampsel (3:46:29); Germany's Roman Huber (4:14:33); and Japan's Saburo Arakawa (5:27:31) and Tetsuya Sugimori (4:12:57).

In the women's amateur division, four braved the challenging course with Guam's Erin Johnson posting the best time at 4:00:12 (27:55, 2:11:33, and 1:20:44). Saipan's Athena Andrews was second with her 4:13:43 (36:05, 2:15:08, and 1:22:30), followed by fellow Saipan finisher Kaitlin Mattos (4:49:27), and the U.S.' Allison Moore (5:33:10).

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	45	32	.584	–
x-Brooklyn	42	34	.553	2½
New York	33	45	.423	12½
Boston	23	54	.299	22
Philadelphia	17	60	.221	28

Southeast Division

y-Miami	53	23	.697	–
x-Washington	40	37	.519	13½
x-Charlotte	39	38	.506	14½
Atlanta	34	42	.447	19
Orlando	22	55	.286	31½

Central Division

y-Indiana	53	25	.679	–
x-Chicago	45	32	.584	7½
Cleveland	31	47	.397	22
Detroit	28	49	.364	24½
Milwaukee	14	63	.182	38½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	60	17	.779	–
x-Houston	51	25	.671	8½
Dallas	47	31	.603	13½
Memphis	45	32	.584	15
New Orleans	32	45	.416	28

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	55	21	.724	–
Portland	50	28	.641	6
Minnesota	38	38	.500	17
Denver	33	44	.429	22½
Utah	24	53	.312	31½

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	55	23	.705	–
Golden State	48	29	.623	6½
Phoenix	46	31	.597	8½
Sacramento	27	50	.351	27½
L.A. Lakers	25	52	.325	29½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	4	3	.571	–
New York	3	3	.500	½
Toronto	3	4	.429	1
Baltimore	2	4	.333	1½
Boston	2	4	.333	1½

Central Division

Detroit	4	1	.800	–
Chicago	3	3	.500	1½
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1½
Minnesota	3	3	.500	1½
Kansas City	2	3	.400	2

West Division

Seattle	4	2	.667	–
Houston	3	3	.500	1
Oakland	3	3	.500	1
Texas	3	3	.500	1
Los Angeles	2	4	.333	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Miami	5	2	.714	–
Atlanta	4	2	.667	½
Washington	4	2	.667	½
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1½
New York	2	4	.333	2½

Central Division

Milwaukee	4	2	.667	–
Pittsburgh	4	2	.667	–
St. Louis	3	3	.500	1
Chicago	2	4	.333	2
Cincinnati	2	4	.333	2

West Division

San Francisco	5	2	.714	–
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	½
Colorado	3	4	.429	2
San Diego	2	4	.333	2½
Arizona	2	7	.222	4

SHELL HOUSTON OPEN SCORES

HOUSTON (AP) — Final results Sunday from the Houston Open, a $6.4 million US PGA Tour event at the 7,441-yard, par-72 Golf Club of Houston course:

FINAL ROUND

Matt Jones (500), $1,152,000	68-68-71-66–273
Matt Kuchar (300), $691,200	66-67-68-72–273
Sergio Garcia (190), $435,200	67-65-73-70–275
Cameron Tringale (135), $307,200	68-68-69-71–276
Shawn Stefani (110), $256,000	67-69-73-69–278
Rickie Fowler (100), $230,400	70-70-68-71–279
Brice Garnett (80), $186,240	68-71-72-69–280
Retief Goosen (80), $186,240	68-71-71-70–280
Russell Henley (80), $186,240	73-69-72-66–280
Rory McIlroy (80), $186,240	70-71-74-65–280
Ryan Palmer (80), $186,240	70-68-73-69–280
Erik Compton (59), $125,440	66-73-73-69–281
Ben Curtis (59), $125,440	67-70-71-73–281
J.B. Holmes (59), $125,440	66-73-71-71–281
Phil Mickelson (59), $125,440	68-70-72-71–281
Chris Stroud (59), $125,440	68-72-71-70–281
Martin Flores (54), $99,200	68-72-72-70–282
Lee Westwood (54), $99,200	70-72-71-69–282
Jonathan Byrd (50), $77,568	68-74-73-68–283
Graham DeLaet (50), $77,568	70-71-72-70–283
Jason Gore (50), $77,568	67-71-74-71–283
Freddie Jacobson (50), $77,568	68-72-74-69–283
Charl Schwartzel (50), $77,568	67-75-70-71–283
Luke Donald (44), $50,651	71-71-71-71–284
Michael Putnam (44), $50,651	68-72-73-71–284
Jim Renner (44), $50,651	66-72-74-72–284
Steve Stricker (44), $50,651	68-69-76-71–284
Nicholas Thompson (44), $50,651	71-69-74-70–284
Jimmy Walker (44), $50,651	71-65-77-71–284
Andres Romero (44), $50,651	72-69-70-73–284
Kevin Chappell (38), $37,952	71-72-76-66–285
Jon Curran, $37,952	69-72-69-75–285
Ryo Ishikawa (38), $37,952	69-74-71-71–285
Hunter Mahan (38), $37,952	69-72-71-73–285
Carl Pettersson (38), $37,952	69-74-72-70–285
James Hahn (35), $32,960	71-72-73-70–286
Brendon de Jonge (32), $28,160	71-73-72-71–287
Bill Haas (32), $28,160	65-74-76-72–287
Charley Hoffman (32), $28,160	65-76-78-68–287
John Huh (32), $28,160	71-71-72-73–287
Jeff Overton (32), $28,160	73-69-74-71–287
David Toms (32), $28,160	71-71-75-70–287
Ricky Barnes (23), $18,374	70-73-74-71–288
Keegan Bradley (23), $18,374	66-77-73-72–288
Angel Cabrera (23), $18,374	68-73-75-72–288
Ben Crane (23), $18,374	70-74-72-72–288
Brian Gay (23), $18,374	71-70-71-76–288
Justin Hicks (23), $18,374	67-73-74-74–288
Jeff Maggert (23), $18,374	69-73-74-72–288
Brendon Todd (23), $18,374	69-74-73-72–288
Camilo Villegas (23), $18,374	67-73-73-75–288
Ernie Els (23), $18,374	68-76-74-70–288
Hudson Swafford (23), $18,374	70-74-76-68–288
John Mallinger (16), $14,656	72-72-75-70–289
John Merrick (16), $14,656	74-68-75-72–289
Kyle Stanley (16), $14,656	69-74-74-72–289
Henrik Stenson (16), $14,656	71-72-76-70–289
Stewart Cink (12), $14,208	67-75-74-74–290
Harrison Frazar (12), $14,208	71-71-76-72–290
Brian Harman (12), $14,208	70-71-74-75–290
Robert Garrigus (9), $13,760	74-69-73-75–291
Davis Love III (9), $13,760	68-73-78-72–291
Webb Simpson (9), $13,760	68-73-73-77–291
Michael Thompson (9), $13,760	67-73-77-74–291
Chris Kirk (5), $13,312	68-74-75-75–292
Justin Leonard (5), $13,312	70-71-81-70–292
John Rollins (5), $13,312	68-76-72-76–292
Kevin Kisner (3), $13,056	71-70-81-71–293
Greg Chalmers (2), $12,864	69-74-75-76–294
Tommy Gainey (2), $12,864	71-72-77-74–294
Tyrone Van Aswegen (1), $12,672	71-73-74-77–295
J.J. Henry (1), $12,480	72-71-78-75–296
Jhonnattan Vegas (1), $12,480	67-75-76-78–296
Stephen Ames (1), $12,224	72-71-78-76–297
Bubba Dickerson, $12,224	74-70-74-79–297
Roberto Castro (1), $12,032	71-72-83-73–299

Jones won on first playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MP UNITED

From Page 28

to the top spot with its 5-4-0 record and 19 points. Tan Holdings slides to second with its 5-2-2 mark and 17 points. Both Matansa and Tan Holdings have one more game left in the regular season and results of this weekend's matches will decide the winner of the division crown.

Lyka Sally moved Matansa one step closer from taking the girls tiara after scoring the lone goal in last weekend's match in the seventh minute of the opening frame.

Two more games in the girls U15 division were played last Saturday with MP United beating Shirley's FC, 2-0, and Paire FC and Kanoa FC settling for a tie, 1-1.

MP United (3-4-2) got two goals from Karleen Reyes to beat Shirley's (4-1-4). Reyes scored early, with her goal in the fifth minute and then earned her second in the 65th.

In the Paire-Kanoa tussle, Shaiann Cabrera drilled the equalizer for the latter, as she found the back of the net five minutes into the second half. Paire took a 1-0 halftime lead off Kalea Andrew's goal in the 42nd minute.

Swim Leg of 2014 XTERRA Saipan

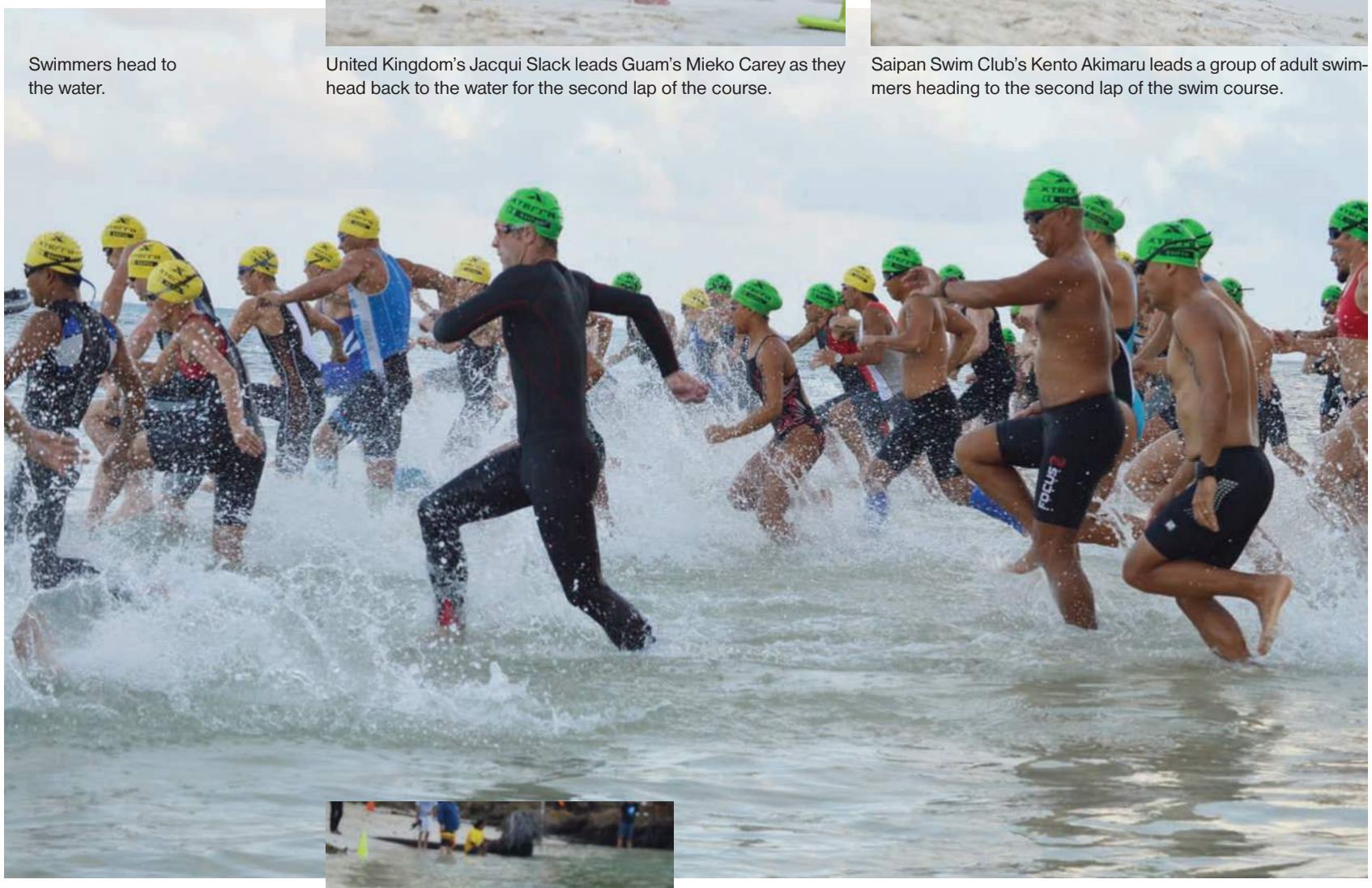
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Australia's Ben Allen gets out of the water after the 1.5-kilometer win leg at Micro Beach during last Saturday's 2014 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack leads Guam's Mieko Carey as they head back to the water for the second lap of the course.

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru leads a group of adult swimmers heading to the second lap of the swim course.

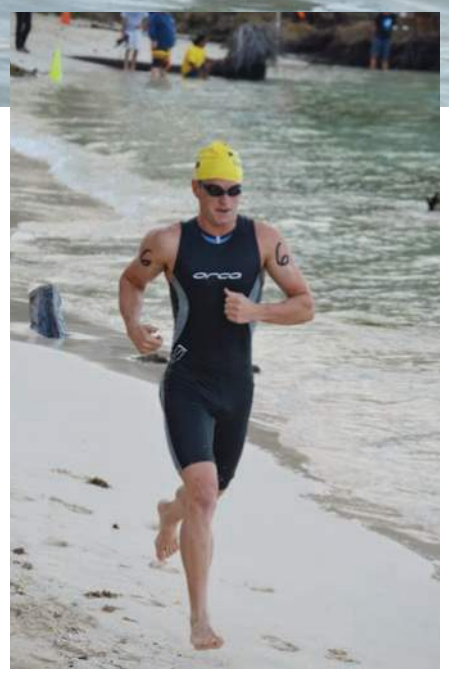
South Africa's Dan Hugo in a pensive mood before the start of the swim leg in the waters off Micro Beach.



Swimmers head to the water.

Brad Ruszala waits for the start of the swim race.

Saipan's Tyce Mister, left, and two other triathletes go for the final lap of the swim course.



South Africa's Bradley Weiss runs along the shore for the second lap of the swim course.

Participants in XTERRA Saipan pose for a photo before competing in the swim leg of the weekend race.

LeBron scores 38, Heat top Knicks, 102-91

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jones' playoff chip-in wins Houston Open

PAGE 25

MP United clinches two titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club captured two division championships in the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League.

The club's U15 squad was the first one to notch a title, following a 3-1 victory over Paire Football Club last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Michael Lee canned back-to-back goals in the first half, while Kaki Yamada nailed the other one in late in the second frame to lift MP United to the season-clinching win.

MP United improved to a 7-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the five-team field, way ahead of Paire FC, which is in second place with its 3-2-2 slate. MP United FC has one more game left in the regular season and regardless of the results of its final match, the team will no longer be bumped off from the top spot. Pending its last assignment in the spring season, MP United has collected 21 points and 26 goals, while giving up only two goals.

Matansa has the second most goals so far with 24, following a 4-2 triumph over Tan Holdings FC in the other boys U15 match at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last Saturday. Matansa moved up to third place in the team standings with its 3-1-3 card, just half a game ahead of Tan Holdings (3-1-4), while Shirley's (0-0-7) rounds out the boys U15 field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United FC's David Yang goes for a header against the much smaller Matansa FC goalie during the first half of their game in the boys U18 division of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

In the U18 division, MP United completed the nine-game season sweep to claim its third straight regular season championship. The Norman Del Rosario-coached team capped a perfect record after shutting down Matansa FC, 10-0, last Saturday, also at the Hopwood pitch.

MP United finished the double-round robin competition in style, drawing goals from eight different players. Tanapon Unsa and Scott Kim knocked in two goals apiece, while John Taisacan, Daving Yang, Jireh Yobech, Daniel Lim, Enrico Del Rosario, and Jake Lee chipped in one apiece. With the 10 more goals at the conclusion of the season, MP United had a field-best 52 goals. The three-time champion also gave up the least goals (3).

In the other boys U18 match, Tan Holdings (0-0-9) also cruised past Paire FC, 8-0, for a runner-up finish in the division.

Sean Perez anchored the win with his four goals, while Jericho Perez, Marc Mora, Kautong Omengkar, and Mareko Tekopua contributed one apiece, as Tan Holdings ended the season with a 5-0-4 record, 15 points, and 34 goals. Paire (4-0-5) completed the field.

Matansa boosts title bid

In the girls U15, Matansa posted a crucial 1-0 win over Tan Holdings last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

With the victory, Matansa climbed

See MP UNITED on Page 26

IP&E, Laolao keep playoff hopes alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IP&E Rockies and Laolao Bay notched separate wins to remain in contention for playoff spots in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Laolao shut out the Jets in a make-up game last Tuesday, 14-0, while IP&E slipped past McDonald's in extra innings, 5-4, last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfiled. Laolao improved to a 7-4 record for a tie for fifth place with the JPO Enforcers, while IP&E moved up to ninth place with its even 6-6 slate. Only the

See IP&E on Page 26

IP&E Rockies' Dai Podziewski has his bat up while waiting for a pitch from Laolao Bay during an earlier Major division game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sendin leads Saipan finishers in XTERRA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Charlie Sendin emerged as the island's top finisher in last Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championships.

Sporting a hair cut patterned after the XTERRA logo, Sendin completed the 1.5-kilomer swim, 30K bike, and 12K run race in 3:21:18. The 31-year-old surpassed the 3:49:22 he recorded during his debut in the XTERRA Tour's Crown Jewel last year. He had split times of 30:06 (swim), 1:46:36 (bike), and 1:04:34 (run) to finish fourth in the non-pro category and win the 30-34 age

See SENDIN on Page 26

Charlie Sendin stands up from his bike to negotiate an uphill course in Capital Hill during last Saturday's 2014 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO